

# **MINUTES**

## **Mansfield Advisory Committee**

### **on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities**

Regular Meeting - Tuesday November 23, 2010

2:30 PM - Conference Room B - Audrey P. Beck Building

#### I. Recording Attendance

Present: J. Blanshard, F. Goetz, Gloria Bent, K. Grunwald (staff), J. Sidney, J. Tanner, W. Gibbs (Chair)

Regrets: KA Easley

#### II. Approval of Minutes: the minutes for October 26, 2010 were approved as written.

### III. New Business

- a. Welcome new member: Gloria Bent introduced herself to members and explained her interest in joining this group. She has connections with families in town who live with children who have disabilities.
- b. "Other":
  - F. Goetz raised concerns about two crosswalks on Rt. 275 that cannot be accessed by people in a wheelchair from the sidewalk. There is some question about who is responsible for maintaining this, although Fred believes that the Town is responsible for maintaining the sidewalks. K. Grunwald will follow-up with Lon Hultgren.

J. Tanner pointed out that the two accessible spaces in the upper lot of the Community Center and the space at the boat launch on Plains Rd. still don't have signs indicating the \$150 fine. K. Grunwald will follow-up with Bill Hammon. W. Gibbs will check on what's being done at UConn. J. Tanner suggested sending out the letter again to private businesses, and also offer reflective stickers as an option.

J. Blanshard raised concerns about the walkway from Glen Ridge not being funded. J. Sidney suggested that this Committee write a letter to the Town Council to encourage them to seek another source of funding to build this walkway as soon as possible; suggest that this be

included in the Town's budget. K. Grunwald will draft a letter to be sent out under W. Gibb's signature on behalf of the Committee. G. Bent suggested that the Committee could also lobby the Town Council to include funding for this in the Town Budget.

J. Tanner relayed her experience regarding difficulties that she had at CCSU recently with accessibility. She sent letters to three separate officials and did not get any response. The suggestion was made that she attempt to contact the chancellor, David Carter.

#### IV. Old Business

- a. Proposed Brochure: K. Grunwald distributed copies of the revised brochure. Changes:
  - “Advocated for accessible transportation and parking.”
  - “additional support(s)”
  - “Assures access to all recreational and cultural opportunities within the community.” (last bullet)Change the picture on the front.
  
- b. Follow-up to Rachel Leclerc's presentation: J. Blanshard suggested that we invite individuals from the school system to come together to discuss the challenges that they face in serving children with disabilities. She suggested inviting the superintendent, a special ed. teacher, Rachel and someone from transportation. The goal would be to decrease the isolation that parents of these children experience. K. Grunwald raised a question of the purpose of the meeting. G. Bent

stated that she feels that the issues become greater once kids age out of the services provided through the school system. She sees recreation and housing as being important issues, along with advocacy for improved services. She also felt that it might be helpful to hear from someone from the Birth-3 program. G. Bent will invite Joe McLaughlin to attend one to the Committee meetings in February or March. K. Grunwald will send contact information for the Disability Advocates Coalition to G. Bent.

c. Publicity efforts/Community Presentation: no discussion due to Christine Colon-Semenza not being present.

V. Adjournment: Adjourned at 3:30 PM. Members agreed to cancel the meeting December 28. Next meeting will be on January 25. (Cynthia Van Zelm of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership has rescheduled for that date).