

MINUTES

Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities

Regular Meeting - Tuesday May 24, 2011
2:30 PM - Conference Room B - Audrey P. Beck Building

I. Recording Attendance

Present: G. Bent, J. Blanshard, F. Goetz, J. Tanner, K. Grunwald (staff), KA Easley (staff)

Regrets: W. Gibbs, J. Sidney, B. Klimkiewicz

II. The meeting was called to order by F. Goetz at 2:30 p.m.

III. Minutes for April 26, 2011 were accepted with one correction; under New Business, item c “affect” should read “effect”. (Moved: J.Blanshard Seconded: J Tanner)

IV. New Business

a. Storrs Drug Presentation: Nafuel Tajudeen was invited to attend the meeting, but had not responded to the invitation. K. Grunwald will follow up with N. Tajudeen to see if he or Lisa Holle can come to the next meeting.

b. ADA Resources:

K. Grunwald attended a workshop on ADA requirements for municipalities. He has given website information to the town web master for posting.

c. Grievance Policy:

Maria Capriola, Assistant to the Town Manager, joined the meeting. She presented suggestions to the

grievance policy as recommended by Community Consulting, which recently reviewed the policy.

Changes include:

Section II, paragraph 1. - the addition of alternative means for filing a grievance (personal or taped interviews) and the addition of phone number to the personal information requested of the person filing the complaint.

Section III, paragraphs 1. and 2. - the addition of other accessible formats (Braille, large print, audiotape) for copies of the Town Manager's decision on a request for reconsideration of the decision.

Section V – the provision that the Town keep records for a minimum of two years from the date of resolution.

Motion to accept the recommendations (Moved: F. Goetz Seconded: J. Blanshard) Passed unanimously.

d. Community Center: Senior/Disability

F. Goetz received a citizen request that time at the Community Center pool be set aside for the exclusive pool use by seniors and persons with disabilities. A suggested cost for the service could be \$35 – \$50.00 per year. J. Blanshard suggested information is needed on the length of time, specific hours and number of lanes in the pool that would be involved. K. Easley asked if the extent of the need is known; do we know that seniors need/want this service? She suggested the focus be on those with disabilities. K. Grunwald suggested the process used by the group with developmental disabilities could be a model in pursuing this. He will contact Curt Vincente and Jay O'Keefe and invite them to our next meeting. F. Goetz will invite the person making the request.

e. Meeting time

K. Grunwald will send out an electronic poll on meeting times that best meet the needs of the group.

f. Other

J. Tanner noted the lack of accessibility at Mansfield Supply. She asked if we could suggest they install a ramp. KA Easley suggested we determine if the business is included in ADA requirements. K. Grunwald noted any building constructed prior to 1950 is grandfathered in.

J. Tanner will draft a letter to Mansfield Supply, noting that many residents would like to shop with them but the building is inaccessible to them.

IV. Old Business

a. Election of Vice Chair

Tabled until next meeting

b. Review of Communications from the Committee

The following letters were reviewed and approved for sending

- Director of Planning re: Parking Garage/Intermodal Transportation Center
- Letter to Governor Malloy re: OPA

Even though the Plan B budget seems to be off the table now, we will still send the letter.

- Letter to the Mansfield Housing Authority

Kevin noted a review of Housing Authority Policy reveals that the policy is different than we understood. After discussion J. Tanner suggested we note that the presence of the chain limits access to the units in the rear of the development and the chain a safety hazard as it makes accessibility difficult for emergency personnel. Discussion followed about the charge for the removal of the chain. KA Easley remembers a previous investigation concerning this issue. She will

contact the person involved to see if they have disposition results.

The following letter was held:

- Letter to Mansfield Downtown Partnership re: Storrs Drugs

We have had no response from N. Tajudeen to the letter, though he did receive a copy. After discussion the group agreed to hold the letter until we hear from N. Tajudeen that he wants us to take this action on his behalf.

c. G. Bent raised the issue of changes to state employee benefits for prescription drugs which will have a negative impact on independent pharmacists. Letter writing to legislators encouraged.

d. Accessibility issues previously identified.

K. Grunwald noted the passage of the town budget and the inclusion of funding for the sidewalk from Glen Ridge to connect with the current sidewalk on South Eagleville Road. He also reported that he has been in conversation with Lon Hultgren regarding the lack of curb cuts at the crosswalks on South Eagleville Road.

V. Adjournment: at 3:25 p.m. (Moved: J. Blanshard, Seconded: J. Tanner)

Next meeting June 28, 2011.