

**Westport Commission on People with Disabilities
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday February 28, 2019 - Town Hall - Rm. 201**

Attendance: Chairman-Jim Ross, Tom Holleman, Stacie Curran, Marina Derman.
Absent: Evan Levinson, Diane Johnson, LuAnn Giunta,
Present from Human Services: Elaine Daignault & Michelle Bottone

8:35AM - Call to order

Review of Jan. 2019 Minutes - Tom 1st, Stacie - 2nd, All on Favor
Doug Rifkin - will nudge to get visual expert to help Library

Newsworthy/ Legislation Action:

Marina- New Budget Session began - 1st round looks good for people with disabilities.
Long road to end game, but Governor put forth favorable budget.

Jim: Attended Council on Developmental Disabilities Learning Day - Funded by Feds,
Serve the States looking at improving inclusivity.

Jim put Jonathan S. in touch with Molly Cole, a great force - all in interest of helping the
public

Jim - Attended Family Hearing Day - 2 things to highlight - 1. Story from senior woman,
on housing for her grown son. 2. Best Buddies with their peers - their meaningful
presentation

Film - "Right to Fail" - NY state housing - getting folks out of homes, into community -
you need to do more than give them apartment - they need the support & sustainability.
When can you step in even though one has a right to independent living.

Elaine D. - will send us link to "Mixed Populations", housing authorities.

March 16th - Disability Summit at Mohegan Sun (Elaine will share)

Noteworthy: Walmart - cutting their greeters.

Jim - "Think College", UCONN program - structuring what works for the student in
support, not the parents only.

Elaine D. - Term limits for CPD members - a check-in. Is the committee working for
you? Do you want to continue?

Budget:

Elaine D - presented preliminary hearing, well received

Highlights:

Two new positions:

- Part-time program assistant at the Senior Center
- Moving a part-time to full-time position in youth services (Kevin G. can focus on
Juvenile Justice) - reconvene on Mar. 14th

Budget - up 5% (\$70,000 uptick) (does not cover two new positions)

CPD Minutes of February 28, 2019 (cont'd.)

New daunting issues coming into HS office - Mental Health, and lots of need - needing significant support. BOF asked for Priorities & Risk assessment

Diversion - In July 2018 - Westport started JRB (Juvenile Review Board) - through Westport Police Dept. - for 1st, non-violent offense, police can decide to divert a child from the court system and support and assist the minor. WPD has \$22,000 budget to support JRB)

Tom Q: Does school system work with JRB?

Elaine - from budgetary standpoint, no.

Marina - until it involves Sped student - then Sped Budget \$ interventions. (DCF & Probation sits on our JRB board)

Budget Handout - Discussion: - Marketing - keeping the word out that we are here to serve.

CAPE - Marina - continues on the theatre side with WCI, (Marina Derman as President, Diane & Stacie and others as VPs, Treasure & Sec.) More exciting news has been from the library side. Since Bill's presentation last month, a few weeks of meetings, led to us invited to Library Board presentation last night. Roll out of Incorporating People with Disabilities into their future - with a change of Mission, expanded vision, and vision for Library Book Sale to be the starting point - all the way Westport Library being the new vision for all libraries around the country.

It will be nice when we can market this - keeping in mind respect of all other parties

Goals & Objectives

Item to note: ADA self-assessment on Town Buildings - big undertaking (Elaine & others).

March 12th, 9:00AM - Guest speaker for joint commissions, Smart Phones, Smart Homes.

Regional Conversation:

April 11th meeting - 13 Towns, focus on Municipal agents; Eileen Flug (our ADA) and Michelle B (our Municipal Coordinator for People with Disabilities)

Meeting Adjourned: 9:50AM - All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacie Curran