



Department of Human Services

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Westport Commission on People with Disabilities Minutes of Regular Meeting Thursday May 19, 2022 - 9:00am IN PERSON - MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Chairman - Jim Ross, Stacie Curran, Marina Derman, Joe Anastasi, Doug Rivkin, Tom Holleman - Excused: Diane Johnson
From Human Services: Elaine Daignault, Kaila Moran, Margaret Pinheiro
Senior Services: Sue Pfister
Guests: phone Sal Liccione (with Doug R.), in person-Harris Falk

Minutes: Jim Ross - Motion - Joe-1st, Marina - 2nd, All in favor
Two years since we have been - In Person meetings. Nice return

Staff Update - Update Elaine D. (Summary Housing, Insurance, Mental Health, Campership)
TAG - "Get Real" Day - lots of student involvement

Sue - Celebrates 35 YEARS! = Began with internship at Y, to Park & Rec, to Longshore, To Senior Center, to building the new amazing facility! CONGRATULATIONS

"Post-VentionTeam" - after traumatic experience happens, there is a plan in Town, a system involving schools, police, psych. team, etc., (Feld). Prep tragedy)

85 years and older -greatest population for suicide: Financial worry, friends passing away, isolation.

33% of our Town is made up of people 60 years and older

Affordable Housing - Lots going on to follow - it is up on Town website - working toward 2nd moratorium so we can control development in Town. Stay involved.

Transportation: Always an issue, Transit Director (Peter Gold) working to grow program (CPD) did get a letter out in support - budget was restored - RTM voted in favor.

CLUB 203 - born out of necessity - limited recreational opportunities for adults with disabilities to have social experiences, find fun, meet others, and be active in their community. We will begin in September 2022, with a program once a month at local organizations, first one to take place at MOCA Westport, September 7th. (Founded by Joe Anastasi, Kathryn Sonne, & Stacie Curran.)

ACTION: Elaine D- There may be some ARPA funds (social & Emotional support \$) to assist, and Elaine will inquire of Selectwoman's office to be an umbrella as we get going, similar to Kool to be Kind, or CAPE.

Discussion:

Rotaries, maybe as mentors

Get Town "Champions" ex - Nancy Whaler, to assist, getting food donations, etc.

Elaine D - will present next steps for where Club 203 lives, is directly important to its sustainability.

We would like to grow Club 203 regionally - but starting in and around Westport.

Handicap Access to SHS theater:

Letter to SHS, to Town Hall, to Selectwoman's office

Regional Outreach Meeting: (Discussion)

Kennedy Center used to have Recreational Support Coach Training Lessons - we should look into this.

Mike Rizzo - will present at our July meeting

(Discussion - Club 203)

E4E:

3 Tracks:

Employer, Employee goes direct to Employer, or can ask HS for help.

Discussion - confusion - hiccups

Library is looking to hire a part-time career coach, they will take referrals from HS, going to B of F/pilot program, paid for with URPA funds.

ACTION:

Re-vamped website for hiccups in infancy rollout

Elaine D give Selectwoman's office update on E4E as asked

Harris Falk - RTM member district 2- If we want to find DMA persons, we can attend Downtown Planning meeting June 9th at 8:30pm.

We could/should begin attending the Celebrate Westport meetings -Friday mornings once a month

Meeting Adjourned - Joe 1st & Marina 2nd - 10:40am