

Westport Commission on People with Disabilities
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday July 20th, 2023, 9:00am
IN PERSON

Attendance: Jim Ross - Chair, Doug Rivkin, Stacie Curran. Diane Johnson, call in Joe Anastasi, **New Commission Member - Daniel Maya**
Human Services: Elaine Daignault, Kayla Morgan, **New Member of HS - Ryan Baylis**

9:10am - Chair, Jim Ross - Call to Order.

Motion to approve June Minutes - Diane 1st, Doug 2nd - All in favor

Tom Tarrant - Guest Speaker: Westport resident and advocate - working for Jefferies Group, presenting to CPD "DISABILITY IN" leading conference he attended in Orlando disabilityin.org
Tom - talked about his disability, his history with Jefferies, about the company, what it takes to qualify for conference. How to make business more welcoming to people with disabilities/Neurodiverse . Includes 3 parts:

Education (Teach), Inclusivity (Live with), Recruiting (Hire)

What DISABILITY In Offers: Resources online, Newsletters, many big companies are involved, as are many next gen participants - 20 new hires from the conference.

Pointed out multiple financial rewards, reasons to invest to make all accommodating,

Using Disability owned business enterprises (DOBE)- many Highly educated, Neurodiverse.

Next year's conference - Vegas - always July, Disability Pride Month.

Diane Johnson - Shared husband Rady, also in attendance at conference. He was recognized /awarded by Pfizer - understanding colleagues, supporting individuals, their caregivers, and they use DOBE businesses in supply chain.

Big area of change: - Self Identification -things can be tailored to help the individual

Tom: Ideas for guest speakers and Disability Edict.

3As mindset: Awareness, Acceptance, Advancement. (Discussion)

Elaine D - multiple thoughts/questions as it relates to E4E.

If we could get senior players to self-identify publicly, "champions" to normalize it, talk about it and work done matching skills to roles...(great higher level thinking)

momentum now, good for all, not politically sided, numerous studies, many resources to assist (Discussion)

New CPD member Intro - Daniel Maya - Works for Wspt Parks & Rec -

Jim Ross Q: where would he like to see change:

The Edict lesson, more patience to help others, ways to help individuals get around town, modify work, create opportunity for more mobility, bike paths, alternate services.

ADA - 33 years celebrated now - CPD began in 2017, has teeth, gaining right for individuals

New Human Services Employee - Ryan Baylis - as Social worker with the senior population, and disability, and outreach.

Sept 21st - Judge Wexler - Guest Speaker - 1pm, maybe we can do joint meeting

Jim R; - Suggest all go on to Disability rights CT - and take survey - Discussion

Nov. 1st - Westport Together Breakfast meeting

Can we work to create, educate, make this a Westport Town movement
- Discussion

CLUB203 - Kaleidoscope event coming to MOCA - Aug 27th - will include CLUB member art
and busy building calendar of events - events begin again Sept!

E4E - Updating the one-pager - please all review - Elaine D will speak with Jen Tooker -
possibly a feature - and ask more businesses to participate.
NO AUG, General meeting - but will do committee meeting - E4E

Motion to Adjourn: Diane 1st, Daniel - 2nd - All Favor 10:20am