



Karen Taylor, Director
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Opportunity

CITY OF HARTFORD

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

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Janet Wallans, Chair
Kenneth Cayones
Kathy Marseglia
Katherine Pacelle
Catherine Spera
Debra St. Germain, Vice Chair
Cheryl Zeiner, Secretary

HARTFORD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES MEETING MINUTES 5:30 PM. - 7:00PM January 4, 2023

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82994823706?pwd=QnFjbWhEVGU5MWRaTDYwSU51c01mdz09>

Meeting ID: 829 9482 3706

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PRESENT: Janet Wallans, Chair; Debra St. Germain, Vice Chair; Cheryl Zeiner, Secretary; Cathy Spera; Kenneth Cayones

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Kate Pacelle; Kathy Marseglia

STAFF: Kimberly Taylor

GUESTS: Karen Taylor, Equity and Opportunity; Adaeze Mera, Business Owner

The meeting was called to order by Janet at 5:43PM. For the benefit of the guests, introductions were made.

Karen began the meeting by describing and giving an overview of the Equity and Opportunities. She updated efforts that she has been involved in with Kim on behalf of individuals with disabilities. As the ADA coordinator for Hartford, she is taking part in policy and compliance training. She indicated that more ADA transition is needed. She explained all that is being done and all that is being planned to make certain that Hartford is ADA compliant. She and Kim have been meeting with State and local municipal stakeholders to make certain everyone is on the same page regarding ADA compliance. She suggested that NRZs are an excellent resource to establish outreach efforts. She also emphasized that HCDCI is a very important resource to make certain plans move forward.

She shared some of the information she and Kim received during a meeting with State DOT Stakeholders. This included curb and ramp assessments and ADA compliance as what Federal government is doing.

During the Q&A Debra brought up a concern that included but not limited to revisions to the HCDCI Bylaws. She also expressed concerns that Hartford is very tunnel versioned when it comes to various issues that affect ADA compliance. When one issue is addressed, other issues come up that were never considered. She indicated that collaboration with E&O would be very beneficial. She suggested preliminary meetings should take place before plans are implemented. This is where HCDCI could be a major stockholder. Karen agreed that additional meetings should take place to determine areas of concern and collaboration.

The minutes of last month's meeting were reviewed. Debra made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Cathy seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Disability Awareness planning will start immediately. Debra suggested recognizing various theaters, specifically the Bushnell for their efforts to make the theaters more accessible to all individuals with different needs and abilities. Nominations should be accepted asap. Janet will check on Theater Works efforts.

Debra suggested we are making great strides in reaching our goals for this year.

Cheryl made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Debra seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Zeiner, Secretary