

COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING

City Hall Annex, Conference Room C
999 Broad Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Date: Thursday, April 14, 2022

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elliott Calderon (Chairperson), Jerome Roberts (Vice-Chairperson), Donald Donaldson (2nd Vice Chairperson) & Brenda Dye (Secretary)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Larry Robinson

LIAISON TO THE COMMISSION: Sha'Kenya Whittaker, ADA Clerical Assistant

Chairperson, Elliott Calderon: Meeting called to order at 6:15 PM

22-0414-01: Motion to approve CPD Meeting Minutes dated March 10, 2022 (Elliott). Don requested add, excused, to his absence. Jerome 2nd, VOTED, UNANIMOUS

22-0414-02: Motion to approve CPD Meeting Minutes dated February 10, 2022 (Elliott). Jerome 2nd, VOTED, UNANIMOUS

DISCUSSIONS

1. On **March 30, 2022**, Sha'Kenya received a call from a constituent complaining that there was an issue with parking in her complex. She stated that her neighbor has hit her car, due to the installed handicapped parking signs being too close. Sha'Kenya explained to her that, if the lines are too close, this is an issue to be addressed by her condo association and not an issue for the City to deal with. She insisted that the lines were too close. At this point, Sha'Kenya informed her that we can send someone out to ensure that there is ADA compliance in terms of having enough space as required should a vehicle have a liftgate. Sha'Kenya emailed this information to the Commission for People with Disabilities (Elliott), who then forwarded it to other Commission members. They agreed to go out and look at the situation. Upon investigating, Don and Jerome found that the handicapped parking was on Waterman Street and Alanson Road. They also found that there is not a parking lot on the complex, but there is a private parking lot which is gravel and dirt. This parking lot does not have handicapped parking signs installed. The Commissioners were informed that those who use this parking lot must have a key or key fob and they pay monthly for parking. It appears, that this parking lot is not a part of the complex. The general consensus is that this situation is indeed an issue for the homeowner to address with the condo association as there is not a parking lot or assigned parking; therefore, the complex is in compliance according to ADA guidelines. Sha'Kenya did reach out to the constituent on the morning of April 14, 2022 and explained this to her and she became annoyed as evidenced by the change in her tone of voice as Sha'Kenya reiterated this very thing to her from their original conversation. She hung up abruptly after saying thanks for trying. This issue is therefore resolved as the signs were installed with ADA compliance in mind, as well as City ordinances as deemed necessary by the City Engineering department before making a decision to install any of the signs.
2. On **March 10, 2022**, Sha'Kenya, Maria Pereira (Bridgeport City Council) and Don Donaldson (CPD member) met at Success Village to walk through and assess the handicapped parking. It was concluded that the parking was not in compliance with ADA guidelines. There are 12 handicapped parking spaces on the street. There are 200 parking spaces in the Success Village parking lot. There are no handicapped parking space in the Success Village parking lot. It is recommended that an allowance of visitor parking spaces be replaced with handicapped parking spaces in the Success Village parking lot.

3. Projects & Events:

- CPD Membership renewals are being processed
- P.T. Barnum Events - Don to contact Chris Caruso
- By Laws - Few changes still pending
- Park ramp - Don to follow-up
- Chili's Give Back - Sha'Kenya to check dates
- Small Grant - approval still pending
- Homeless Vets – male and female backpacks still available

Elliott adjourned meeting at 7:15 PM

Next Meeting: May 12, 2022 - Time 6:00 PM

Brenda Dye, Secretary

Elliott Calderon, Chairperson

Follow-up Items

1. Identification Badges for all Bridgeport Commissions expected by end of year 2018
2. Larry Robinson to share information at next meeting with the Commission that might be helpful as guide to use when introducing ourselves as Commissioners to the community
3. Develop plans to participate in Health Fair