

# COMMITTEE CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

City of Middletown  
245 DeKoven Drive Room 208

Feb. 5, 2013

6:30 PM

**1. Members Present:** Marty Knight, Chairperson, August DeFrance, Marie Hurley, Elderrean Paules, Richard Pelletier, Keith Vinci, Karen Nocera, Staff, Parks and Recreation, McKenzie Guevarez, Youth in Govt. Representative, Denese Samuels, Youth in Government, Abigail Nolan, Youth in Government

**Absent:** Joseph Carta, Stephen Shapiro

**Staff Present:** ADA Compliance Officer – Laura B. Runte, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation and Senior Center – Debbie Stanley

**General Public:** Phil Cacciola

**2. Meeting Called to Order:** Called to order at 6:30pm.

**3. Public Hearing:** Phil Cacciola spoke of a project that has been in the works for over 5 years. He has been attempting to get audio signals at the crosswalks on William Street, College Street, Court Street, Liberty Street and Rapallo Avenue. These audio signals will alert the visually impaired when it is ok to cross the street. Jeff Everet, an electrician, has been working with Phil but has not received any money that was allocated for the project. At this time, Jeff has decided to walk away from this project. Phil will continue to try to bring this project to fruition. Keith Vinci asked Phil if a letter written by the Committee Concerning People with Disabilities in support of this project and forwarded to the Mayor would be helpful and Phil said yes. Keith will compose this letter and it will be signed by all committee members and then forwarded to the Mayor. A discussion ensued.

**4. Approval of Dec. Minutes:** A motion to approve the meeting minutes of Dec. 4, 2012, was made by Keith Vince and seconded by August DeFrance.

Chairperson Marty Knight started the meeting by asking that everyone introduce themselves.

## Departmental Reports:

- August DeFrance stated that the first well was drilled for the Geothermal heating/cooling and it was successful. There will be a total of 18 wells that will be drilled. The depth of the well was about 430 feet. The Building Committee is still meeting every other week regarding the plans. The Veterans Museum has to be moved sooner rather than later. It needs to be completely off the property within the next 3 months. August stated that the City has already removed floors and walls to check for asbestos. A discussion ensued.
- Marty Knight stated that as of the November 21, 2012, Locker Room Committee meeting, the project was completed and closed. The building was then turned over to the Board of Education. McKenzie Guevarez stated that the lockers are being used by the football team only. Keith Vince suggested that perhaps in 2 months, a site review and walkthrough should be done. A discussion ensued.
- Ellie Paules of Monarca Place mentioned that 2 days after Christmas there was a flood which started on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and went all the way down to the first floor. The water was left on in the kitchen sink and it overflowed and heavily damaged the second floor apartment beneath. The second floor occupant was not home during this time so the water started seeping through the ceiling on the first floor. The second floor apartment had to replace the ceiling, floor and carpet.

The second floor tenant was displaced. There was part of Ellie's ceiling that also had to be replaced. There is discussion of a device being put on the spigot so that this cannot happen again. Keith Vinci also mention that they have sensors that allow water to run if your hands are beneath faucet and when you draw your hands back the water automatically shuts off. After residing at Monarca Place for 5 years, Ellie stated that she finally received her doorbell in December. A discussion ensued.

- Karen Nocera discussed the Parks and Recreation Departments brochure. It is currently online and within the next 7-10 days, it will be sent out. The Unified Theater production of "Unified Theater Television" will be performed on February 27 & 28 at 6:00pm. The performance is at Keigwin School. The Penguin Plunge, which supports the Connecticut Special Olympics, will be held on February 23, 2013 at Crystal Lake starting at 10:00am. The Parks and Recreation Department has a team called Frozen Fools. To make a donation, please go online at [www.soct.org](http://www.soct.org). A discussion ensued.

#### **Old Business**

- **Parking issue at 118 Newfield Street Unit 8:**
  - Resolved
- **Sidewalk issues on Newfield Street:**
  - Ongoing

#### **New Business:**

- Laura Runte discussed her meeting with Bruce Thorstenson, Facility Director of the YMCA, on February 1, 2013. Bruce came in to meet with me to discuss making both pools at the Middletown YMCA ADA Compliant. They will be putting a lift in the larger of the 2 pools and extending the ramp in the smaller pool. I sent Bruce to the Building Department to get the plans approved.
- The appointments of Keith Vince and Marty Knight are up on April 30, 2013. A letter will be drafted and sent to the Mayor's office expressing interest in being re-appointed.

#### **Miscellaneous:**

- Ellie had a question about tax preparation for seniors. I explained the V.I.T.A. program to her and the process of making an appointment. Seniors have been instructed to dial 211 and then press the #3 which will connect them to a live operator. Once a live operator is on the line, the senior needs to ask for an appointment in Middletown. Ellie mentioned that last year 2 women were at Monarca Place helping the residents with tax aide. The 2 women were not sent by the Senior Center. It is likely that the housing office sent these women to Monarca Place.
- Marty mentioned that Richard Pelletier was appointed to the Committee of South Cove which helps in cleaning the environment.
- Karen Nocera asked if the Mayor had appointed anyone to Judy Merida's position yet. It is my understanding that the vacancy has not yet been filled. Marty Knight mentioned that the position had been filled. I contacted the Mayor's office the following morning and was told that Abigail Nolan was appointed to the Committee.

**Adjournment:** A motion of adjournment was made by Richard Pelletier and was seconded by August DeFrance. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura B. Runte