

Norwich Commission for Persons with Disabilities
2019 Summary of Activities

January 27, 2020

Meetings

The Commission met every month in 2019. This includes a Special Meeting in July when a regular meeting was scheduled for July 4.

Activities in 2019

The Commission worked closely and collaboratively with the City's ADA Coordinator, Brigid Marks; Mayor Peter Nystrom and his assistant, Bonnie Cuprak; Teresa Hanlon of Public Works; and the City Building Department. Specific activities/initiatives included:

- Advocacy for improved structural accessibility on City property (for example, temporary remediation of problematic pavement at Brown Park);
- Advocacy for installation of accessible parking at a local shopping center (Although not an ADA Title II issue, the Commission felt that the ability of the City's Building Official to enforce the CT State Building Code in this matter made the Commission's involvement appropriate on a limited basis);
- Hosting of three guest speakers at meetings: Ryan Thompson and Teresa Hanlon of DPW and Chris Riley of NPU;
- Revision of Commission website, including changes to By-Laws and brochure (By-Laws revision included change that allows, under limited circumstances, attendance via phone at meetings);
- Founding Members Reception on November 7 following regular meeting;
- In collaboration with Mayor's Office and NPU, development of an initiative to install at least one wheelchair charging station at an outdoor public location in the City;
- Participation on the Norwich Census Complete Count Committee 2020 (initial meetings in 2019) to ensure an accurate count of people with disabilities;
- Organization/sponsorship of Disability Awareness Week in October (see Addendum).

Commission Meeting Calendar for 2020

The Commission has submitted its 2020 meeting calendar to the City Clerk's office for public posting. This calendar includes a time change from 6:00 PM to 4:00 PM. This change was made to comport with the hours of paratransit transportation.

In conclusion, the Commission again thanks the City Of Norwich for its exceptional support of our many activities that further municipal compliance with Title II of the ADA, as well as related activities that enhance inclusion and equity.

Respectfully submitted,

Elanah Sherman, Chair

Addendum
Disability Awareness Week Calendar 2020

Voting Rights for People with Disabilities (radio)

Monday, October 7, 11:00 AM

Norwich Registrars of Voters Dianne Daniels and Diane Slopak, along with Norwich Commission for Persons with Disabilities members Kevin Harkins and Elanah Sherman, discuss voting rights on the Stu Bryer Show, WICH-1310 Radio.

Government Benefits for People with Disabilities

Monday, October 7, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Presenter: Stuart Hawkins, Founder and Financial Advisor, Futures Planned

Where: Disabilities Network of Eastern CT (DNEC), 19 Ohio Avenue

Working It Out: Presentation and Panel Discussion on ADA Employment Rights

Tuesday, October 8, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Presenters: Attorneys from CT Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, plus others

Where: Community Room, Otis Library, 261 Main Street

Lunch & Learn: Disability Sensitivity Workshop

Wednesday, October 9, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Registration required. Call Julie at 860-889-2365, ext. 128 to register.

Presenter: Melissa Marshall, Coordinator, CT Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance.

Where: Meeting Room, Otis Library, 261 Main Street

Resource Table and Voter Registration

Wednesday, October 9, 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Where: Atrium, Otis Library, 261 Main Street

Municipal Roundtable (featuring key City employees on topics of ADA relevance)

Thursday, October 10, 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

Where: Rose City Senior Center, 8 Mahan Drive

Legislative Panel Discussion on Past and Upcoming Disability-Related Legislation

Friday, October 11, 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

Where: Rose City Senior Center, 8 Mahan Drive

All events free and open to the public. For a calendar of events, go to www.otislibrarynorwich.org. For material in alternative format or sign language interpretation, please contact elanahs@gmail.com or 860-614-7200. (Request deadline: September 30)

Disability Awareness Week is sponsored by the Norwich Commission for Persons with Disabilities, with the essential support of the City of Norwich Office of the Mayor, Norwich Public Utilities, Otis Library, and Rose City Senior Center.