

Town of Cromwell
Committee to Support People with Disabilities
Regular Meeting, October 2, 2018
7:00 p.m. Town Hall Activities Room
Minutes

ATTENDANCE- Meagan Ribera, Lucille Wrzos, Heidi Neumann-Venetianer, Laurie Cantwell, Jeannine Marron, James Demetriades (Town Council Liason)

ABSENT- John Flanders, Linda Demetriades

A. CALL TO ORDER- Meagan motioned to call the meeting to order at 7:08 pm Lucille seconded; no abstentions or opposed. Meeting called to order.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA Mrs Ribera moved to amend the agenda to allow guest speaker Amy Saada, Director of Cromwell Human Services. Mrs Wrzos seconded, no abstentions or opposed. Motion approved.

Mrs Neumann-Venetianer moved to approve the agenda; Mrs Wrzos seconded; no abstentions or opposed. Agenda approved.

Ms Marron moved to approve the minutes; Mrs Wrzos seconded; no abstentions or opposed.

C. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Lynda Juda of 123 West Street commended the committee for taking on task to help the disabled in Cromwell and would like to help by offering suggestions and concerns of the communities senior citizens. She would like the van drivers to let the seniors know that if they are unable to walk up the steps that they can use the lift in the back of the van. She would also like a community action to have young people help seniors at Fox Glen and Pilgrim Manor to assist with chores and groceries, and that seniors would be willing to pay for this assistance.

D. OLD BUSINESS

Amy Saada, Director of Human Services, came to respond to community concerns about transportation for senior and disabled citizens. All of the towns vans are ADA compliant with the same dimensions. The lift is for anyone with ambulatory challenges and the ramp has side handles. Highlights of transportation will be put in Rare Reminder, Chronicle, Cromwell Life, and Human Services newsletter. The newsletter is put online monthly and delivered to Fox Glen, Pilgrim Manor and Covenant Village. Our transportation services are free for those in need while other communities charge \$2.50 one way.

E. NEW BUSINESS

Collaboration in process with Megan Collins in Washington to bring "Spread the Word to End the Word" initiative to Cromwell. Mrs Ribera has met with the superintendent and

assistant superintendent of Cromwell schools to bring the campaign to the schools. Also asking for policy to be put in motion to address the use of the word 'retard' in literature already implemented in the curriculum. We are also looking to incorporate the pledge in this policy. The committee would also like to request sensitivity training and professional development.

The committee would like to set up a Facebook page to keep the community involved. Ms Marron has agreed to take on this task.

Mr Demetriades looked at the town's ordinance in regards to service animals. Ordinance 82-4b gives a waiver for registering seeing eye dogs. A letter will go to the town council to request changing "seeing eye dogs" to service dog.

Mrs Ribera made a motion to allow video conference or call to be allowed to reach a quorum for future meetings. Mrs Neumann-Venetianer seconded. No abstentions or opposed. Motion approved.

F. ADJOURN

Mrs. Ribera made a motion to adjourn at 8:38 pm. Ms Marron seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Heidi Neumann-Venetianer