

Daniel A. Micari, Commissioner, Chairperson
Tracy Beland, Commissioner
Gloria Ewings, Commissioner
Ruth Ann Graime, Commissioner, Secretary
Kristen Granatek, Commissioner
Greg Klimek, Commissioner
Joseph Krolikowski, Commissioner
Mary Fortier, City Council Liaison



**Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Bristol, CT 06010**

**Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2021**

7:00 PM – Virtual Meeting

Our Mission

To promote inclusion and improve the quality of life for people in Bristol with a disability, by providing a network of partnerships with local resources that foster self-sufficiency, dignity, and respect

Present: Micari, Fortier, Beland, Ewings, Graime, Granatek, Klimek

Absent: Krolikowski

Call to order: 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: The April 14, 2021 minutes was approved.

Presentation: Deborah Dorfman, J.D., Executive Director

Michael Whilby, Community Engagement Advocate
Disability Rights CT

In 2017, DRCT replaced the Office of Protection and Advocacy and is a private nonprofit. Due to Federal funding, individual advocacy is discontinued at this time. However, DRCT's focus on systemic advocacy and policy flaws do impact individual cases. Focus areas include monitoring and investigating facilities with respect to abuse and neglect issues; education; employment; voting rights and accessibility; traumatic brain injury, assistive technology, and monitoring payees of Social Security. A new grant provides a position to advocate for Covid vaccines to underserved groups and may extend to individual advocacy. Services are free with no citizenship or income restrictions. The intake phone number is 860-297-4300. Deborah and Mike emphasized their openness to fostering community engagement and in partnering with the Commission in future initiatives.

New/Current Business

- *Chairman Micari intends to send to the Commissioners a draft of an accommodation statement. Pending approval, this statement will be placed on the webpage, minutes, and agenda.
- *Councilor Fortier agreed to clarify with HR Director Mark Penney a sufficient accommodation statement for the City website.
- *Commissioner Granatek reinforced that the Police Registry and the Police Accountability Law are unrelated. Commissioners agreed that the Registry is a relevant topic for future exploration. Chairman Micari and Commissioner Granatek will contact DRCT and additional sources for further information.
- * Commissioner Beland: Regarding the Bristol All Heart Spotlight feature, she will introduce PR Specialist Dawn Nielsen to proposed Spotlight articles. Jointly they will determine the content of each featured All Heart article.
- *Regarding a question of the status of vaccinations in Bristol, Councilor Fortier stated that some group home residents may not yet have received vaccinations. Chairman Micari will contact local and state group homes to determine compliance.
- *Chairman Micari informed that grant money is available for ADA-related topics and reiterated an interest in planning a public program. He encouraged Commissioners to become a website member by contacting Karen Green at <https://www.adacc.net>.

Old Business

None

Correspondence

None

Public Participation

An individual requested DRCT's intervention on behalf of her husband, who had attended the programs at Chapter 126 in Bristol and Hartford, now closed at both sites. Executive Director Deb Dorfman asked her to contact DRCT for assistance.

Motion to adjourn: Klimek, seconded **Meeting adjourned:** 8:45 PM

Next meeting: June 9, 2021 at 7:00 PM, held virtually

Note: June meeting was cancelled

**Submitted by,
Ruth Ann Graime, Secretary**

