

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  
September 9, 2020**

**7:00 PM – Bristol City Hall First Floor Meeting Room**

**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, Ewings, Graime, Klimek, Krolikowski; Webex: Fortier, Granatek,

**Absent:** Beland

**Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** The July 8, 2020 minutes was approved. (Klimek, seconded)

**Presentation:** Sarah Larson, Deputy Superintendent of Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services

Sarah discussed the Park System's core values and Master Plan, dedicated to diversity, conservation, and establishment of community partnerships. Inclusivity and accessibility are major priorities; ongoing site assessments at all parks are evaluating the curbing, safe surfaces, and ramp access. With 32 full-time employees, 100 recreation programs are offered, along with case management and mental health counseling (by referral). Individual and community needs will determine adaptations to programming, e.g., a diabetes policy and aquatics (in partnership with Bristol Hospital). A major goal is national accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation for Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), which evaluates ADA planning, outreach to underserved populations, and a site access audit. Sarah agreed to mutual communication and advocacy with our Commission on behalf of the persons we represent.

## **New/Current Business**

Chairman Micari reported on the ADA National Network Learning Session: FEMA Perspective on Emergency Management, COVID-19 and People with Disabilities.

- Increased vulnerability to COVID-19 has been documented in persons with an underlying medical condition, in residents of group homes or nursing homes, and in elders over age 65
- Federal, state and municipal entities are encouraged to prioritize testing that enables full accessibility
- Persons with disabilities must have an integral role in all levels of disaster planning (*Nothing about me, without me*)

Councilor Fortier reported that the Bristol nursing homes have been effective in distancing their patients, thereby reducing the number of Covid cases. Commissioner Klimek agreed to contact the Lions Club for an upcoming presentation.

Regarding a date change for the November 11 meeting (Veterans Day), Chairman Micari will seek to change the meeting to November 4.

## **Old Business**

The topic of a Special Needs Registry is removed from further consideration.

## **Correspondence**

None

## **Public Participation**

None

**Motion to adjourn:** Klimek, seconded      **Meeting adjourned:** 8:20 PM

**Next meeting:** October 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM, first floor meeting room

Presentation: Registrars of Voters Sharon Krawiecki and Kevin McCauley

**Submitted by,**

**Ruth Ann Graime, Secretary**

