

Daniel A. Micari, Commissioner, Chairperson
Tracy Beland, Commissioner
Barbara Bajurny, Commissioner
Andrew Collins, Commissioner, Secretary
Gloria Ewings, Commissioner
Ruth Ann Graime, Commissioner
Joseph Krolikowski, Commissioner
Jacqueline Olsen, City Council Liaison



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

**Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2024**

7:00 PM – City Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room 1-1 and Virtual Format

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

Reasonable Accommodation Statement

The Bristol Commission for Persons with Disabilities is committed to equal access to, and participation in, all meetings and Commission-sponsored programs and events. Individuals who require an accommodation in order to fully participate, including physical access, communication assistance, or other special need, should contact Daniel A. Micari at damicari@yahoo.com, at least seven business days prior to the scheduled meeting, program, or event.

Present: Micari, Bajurny, Collins, Ewings, Graime, Krolikowski, Olsen

Absent: Beland

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

Approval of Minutes: December 13, 2023 (Krolikowski/Ewings, passed)

Presentation: Margaret Banker, Director, ADA Paratransit Services, Greater Hartford Transit District
Topic: Recent 502 bus route changes and paratransit adjustments

Ms. Banker provided an overview of the purpose of ADA Paratransit Services, which focuses on providing transportation to those with disabilities. She noted that ADA Paratransit Services' bus routes mirror those of CTtransit.

Ms. Banker described the recent expansion of bus route 502, which now includes the ESPN area and the Bristol Adult Education Center. The route does not currently include service to Lake Compounce.

Ms. Banker described the advantages of utilizing ADA Paratransit Services which includes services seven days a week (with Sundays having shorter hours), affordable prices with discounts for seniors, and accommodation of mobility devices. Training for riders is provided through The Kennedy Collective which can assist with route planning and other customer services.

Ms. Banker demonstrated how routes can be planned with Google Maps including different dates and times, options for minimizing walking and wheelchair access, and showing bus stops.

Ms. Banker answered questions from Commission members and members of the audience including describing the CTtransit alert system, number of bus routes in Bristol, and the challenges of expansion of services to Southington.

New/Current Business

*Chairman Micari announced that Deb Reed, of the National Federation of the Blind, will speak at the February meeting. The Commission also considered inviting representatives from Bristol Hospital and UConn Health to a future meeting. Other future speakers are still being confirmed.

*Commissioner Bajurny stated that she plans on organizing a meeting, outside of the Commission, with Bristol's state legislators to discuss and advocate for disability-related concerns. Chairman Micari asked Commissioner Bajurny to keep the Commission updated on the details of any such meeting.

*Commissioner Bajurny demonstrated basic American Sign Language to the Commission and participating audience members. The lesson included fingerspelling and basic greetings.

Old Business

*Chairman Micari updated the Commission on smoke/CO detectors. He stated that he and Harley Graime, Emergency Management Director, spoke with Fire Chief Hart and confirmed that ten smoke/CO detectors have been purchased. In addition, Chairman Micari announced that the city received a \$900 grant from The Advocates for Bristol Seniors, Inc. to cover the costs of installation. City Council Liaison Olsen stated that she announced this at the recent City Council meeting where the response was positive. The Commission thanked Commissioner Bajurny for her initiative on this issue.

Correspondence

*Chairman Micari announced that he sent a thank you email to Beth Kanachovski of The Advocates for Bristol Seniors, Inc. for the \$900 grant to cover smoke/CO detector installation costs.

*Chairman Micari announced that Commissioner Beland announced her resignation from the Commission.

Public Participation

*George Reed and Deb Reed suggested that a future discussion should focus on difficulties in dealing with accessibility issues with the healthcare industry especially for the blind. A suggestion was made to invite advocates from either Bristol Hospital or UConn Health who specialize in accessibility issues as a future speaker. Commissioner Bajurny suggested inviting an interpreter from UConn Health. Chairman Micari suggested contacting Disability Rights Connecticut for further information.

Motion to adjourn: Krolikowski/Ewings, passed **Meeting adjourned:** 8:15 PM

Next meeting: February 14, 2024, at 7:00 PM
City Hall, 1st floor meeting room 1-1

Presenter: Deb Reed, National Federation of the Blind
Topic: Mission overview and organization priorities

Submitted by,
Andrew Collins, Secretary