

Groton Parks & Recreation Department
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Real Choice Systems Change Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 5, 2005, at 11:30am

Committee members present:

Eileen Cicchese, Gary Patterson, Paul Duarte, Carrie Czerwinski, Colin Baxter, Anita Dees, Mary Hannigan, Mary Jo Riley, Mary O'Shea, and Jim Flannigan.

Meeting got underway at 11:47 a.m.

Members of the committee were up-dated on the following

- ✓ Jim Flannigan reported on the progress of the booklet. Jim advised that Stan Kosloski had given the booklet to an intern in his office to edit. Stan then e-mailed the booklet with the first set of edits to Mary Hannigan and him. The booklet as edited was shown to the committee for comment. Anita Dees, Paul Duarte, and Mary O'Shea indicated that the colors used might be difficult for a visually impaired person to read. Paul remarked that with his sight impairment reading the orange headings was difficult to impossible. Anita indicated that people with visual impairment have a difficult time reading when the print is in colors like orange. It was agreed that Stan should be advised of the problem. It was also requested that a uniform font be used, and if possible to increase the font to 14. Mary and Jim will be meeting with Stan, and will advise him of the committees concerns.
- ✓ Mary Hannigan reported that the video has been completed. That it has been sent out to be copied. The initial process will include 200 DVDs and 150 VHS tapes. She also advised that Shawn has sent the video out to be closed captioned prior to the copies being made. The total cost of this effort is not exactly known, but should be less than what was originally figured.
- ✓ Eileen Cicchese reported that she had been invited to conduct a seminar in Littleton, New Hampshire. She stated that one of the initiatives they are undertaking is the production of two CDs. The focus of one of the CDs is concerning business using those with disabilities as employees, and the different types of technology available. She stated that once they are completed a copy will be sent to her. She did say that she wasn't able to learn a lot of what they have done to date because of the time constraint of the program.
- ✓ Jim Flannigan reported that the Theater Program conducted on Saturday was a success. The trainer, Dean, did a session on Improve. He was able to connect with

those in attendance, and had all of the participants involved. Jim related that if someone did not feel comfortable doing an exercise they did not have to participate. Jim further stated that one young girl with autism for the most part did not take part in the exercises, but did participate in the story telling. The presenter put the young girl at ease, and you could see how this made her feel comfortable telling her story. Jim stated that this was a highlight, and to him made the program a huge success. Anita Dees also reported that she felt the program was a huge success, and that all of those involved seemed to get a lot from the presentation. The next program is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2005, at 2:00 pm.

- ✓ Jim Flannigan reported that one person, Darlene, came to the theater program to learn more about the mentor program. Jim and Anita spoke with her, and she is very much interested in the program.
- ✓ Jim Flannigan advised that the Griswold Forum has been rescheduled to April 28, 2005, at 9:30 am.
- ✓ Eileen Cicchese reported on the Mystic Chamber Program which will be held at 8:00 am at the Town Hall Annex on May 11, 2005. She stated that she needed some ideas as what the program should include so that the information could be included in the Chamber's next flyer. Some of the ideas discussed were to show the video, the CD from Littleton if it is available, having a disabled person speak about being employed and the benefits of employment, having an employer speak about using those with disabilities as an employee, and some of the benefits of utilizing those with disabilities as well as making a business accessible to those with disabilities.
- ✓ The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
James E. Flannigan