

Groton Parks & Recreation Department
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Phone (860) 536-5680 or Fax (860) 536-5690

Real Choice Systems Change Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 3, 2005, at 11:30am

Committee members present:

Eileen Cicchese, Gary Patterson, Carrie Czerwinski, Colin Baxter, Anita Dees, Mary Hannigan, Mary O'Shea, Stan Kosloski, Jan Lehrman, Bob Reuter, and Jim Flannigan.

Meeting got underway at 11:45 a.m.

Members of the committee were up-dated on the following

- ✓ Jim Flannigan reported on the progress of the booklet. Jim advised that he spoke with Stan Kosloski at the Griswold Forum, and that a suggestion was made to change the color to represent the colors of the Town of Groton. Stan reported that between his schedule and the schedule of the intern working on the book that he has not had a chance to meet with her. He indicated that he hopes to meet with her, and complete the editing needed to complete the book for printing. He did have a copy of the booklet done in the color green for the committee to review.
- ✓ Jim Flannigan reported that the Town was well represented at the Griswold Forum that Greg Ryan from the Connecticut Assets Network was the facilitator for the program, and he spoke on how to work without "mega bucks" and identifying "bridge builders". Mary Hannigan reported that the program was well received, and very informative.
- ✓ Jim Flannigan reported on the Theater Program. He advised the last session involved costumes. That Ron McGory conducted the session with other members of the Groton Regional Theater. Jim also reported that he conducted a voluntary survey after the conclusion of the program. He stated that the program received excellent reviews, and that the comments requested more sessions be conducted in the future. Jim further stated that the Groton Regional Theater voted to continue the program, but because of scheduling suggested this start in the fall. Ron McGory also requested to meet so a program can be developed. Jan Lehrman stated that she attended the session on doing make-up, and brought some pictures in to show the committee. Anita Dees reported that the program was a huge success, and would like to see it continue in the summer. She stated that there are resources available that could help to achieve this goal. She further reported that she would work on this idea to see if some type of program for the summer can be developed.

- ✓ Eileen Cicchese reported that the program for the Mystic Chamber of Commerce will be conducted at the Town Hall Annex on Wednesday, May 11, 2005. Eileen and Jim Flannigan met, and developed an agenda for the program. Eileen reported that she has compiled information from the Littleton, NH, site that will be given to the participants. She further reported that the program will include a showing of the video, a question and answer program with Lillian an employee with a disability, Kate Armstrong and Colin Baxter speaking on a parent's point of view as well as being an employer, and closing with Stan Kosloski.
- ✓ Eileen Cicchese spoke about a new initiative with the Library. That the Library has a program where they choose a book to read. The program is one book for one region with the theme being how one person can make a difference. That she is working to have a book on inclusion included in the program. She further reported that the Library can set up an area dedicated to a topic. She is working on having a section for books involving inclusion. She is also working with Chris Gaynor to have a fellow worker who has a guide dog to participate in a program in Groton.
- ✓ Anita Dees spoke about Adaptive Design Services in Massachusetts, and how they will come into your home to determine what modifications are needed. They will also provide all the support needed except for materials. Carrie Czerwinski reported that the Corporation for Independent Living has some grants available, but does have limited resources. Anita also reported that a group at Millstone Power Station makes available at no cost handicapped accessible bicycles.
- ✓ Carrie Czerwinski also mentioned that the Disabilities Network of Eastern Connecticut will be having its second annual flea market to benefit DNEC on Saturday, June 5, 2005, with a rain date of Saturday, June 12, 2005. She urged all committee members to come, and if possible to have a table at the event. Carrie also mentioned that the Olmsted Coalition will have their next meeting in Groton on June 9, 2005, at 12:00 pm, and all committee members are urged to attend.
- ✓ The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
James E. Flannigan