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MAYOR

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HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

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**ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY SERVICES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2019
CIVIC CENTER ROOM 301**

MINUTES

MEMBERS

Megan Utley
Matt Hoffmann
Brian Kellems
Robert Guzzo
Ramona Harvey
Mark Weatherwax

STAFF

Diane Clements-Boyd
Bonnie Fox

The monthly meeting of the Advisory Board on Disability Services was called to order on the above date by Chairman Matthew Hoffmann.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Requests – There were no requests added to the agenda.

Roll was called with the above named board members and staff in attendance.

It was properly moved and seconded by board members Kellems and Utley respectively to accept the minutes of the August meeting as presented. Board members voted unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

Tom Sturgeon was in attendance and reported on the gym Lift 4 Life. Mr. Sturgeon, who is a disabled veteran, and his wife Tina Doss Sturgeon own and operate Lift for Life. He reported that the mission is to show compassion to veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety and other disabilities.

The facility however is not only for veterans, but also for first responders and people with disabilities. They want to reach out to people and groups and to be a support system through health and fitness. He reported that he and his wife literally live at the gym which is open 24 hours and they do not turn anyone away. They have gym equipment that is accessible, and personal trainers to create a fitness plan for each person. There is a lounge with comfortable seating, television, coffee bar, pool table, other table games and a fully stocked store. Pet grooming is available and a veterinarian comes in twice a month to check service dogs. There is a stylist to give haircuts and trims. He passed out brochures to board members with location and phone number of the gym. There will be a fundraiser, open house and competition at the gym on October 5 that will also include vendor booths, food and a therapist on site. Starting April 2020 there will be open house and competition each year in April.

NEW BUSINESS:

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) October – Chairman Hoffmann will contact Old National Bank to find out what their plans are for October. The goal of NDEAM is to encourage employers to hire employees with disabilities. A suggestion was made for members to meet on September 18 at 2:00 pm in the HRC office to decide what can be done for the month. The director will pull ideas from the website to be shared at the meeting and will have posters printed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance Amendments –

The ordinance was given to the county attorney for corrections. Board member Guzzo is not sure if the amendment should duplicate the city's version.

Accessibility Decal Program –

The director reported that the letters are being completed, but there remains questions that she is unsure of and would like input from the Advisory Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The HRC Annual Dinner and Mayor's Celebration of Diversity Awards will be on October 30th at the Old National Events Plaza with Fania Davis as the keynote speaker.

It was properly moved and seconded to adjourn this September 13, 2019 meeting of the Advisory Board on Disability Services.