



Lafayette City-Parish President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities

Monday, December 8, 2008
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Harold Arceneaux; Jim Richard; Peggy Stelly; Laura Breaux Deborah Aymond: Excused; Yvonne Bell
Guests in Attendance: Dan Arabie; Randy Broussard; Mark Guillory; Melody Cooper;
Staff Present: Ben Berthelot; Dana McPherson

1. Jim Richard called the meeting to order.
2. The minutes of the November meeting were approved by the committee, with a motion by Deborah Aymond and second by Harold Arceneaux

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Ben Berthelot referenced the email sent by Yvonne Bell, attached to the agenda, that would be discussed during Old Business.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

- Leadership Training – Peggy Stelly referred to a document sent by Yvonne Bell. It was a 59 page document from a group in Minnesota on what they have done in regard to Leadership Training. Peggy has not gotten all the way through the document. Peggy said the Leadership Training is something that we need to continue looking at to put into place during the next calendar year. Deborah Aymond recommended a sub-committee to make recommendations back to the committee regarding more specific details. Ben Berthelot offered staff support for mailings and news releases. Deborah Aymond and Peggy Stelly said they would be on the subcommittee and would ask Yvonne Bell to take part as well.
- Easter Seals Sensitivity Training – Peggy asked if anyone had taken part on the conference call. It dealt with sensitivity issues as it relates to Transportation issues. Peggy is trying to get a copy of the CD and will make copies for the committee. The sensitivity training would be a “Train the Trainer” type. Dana McPherson said she is working to offer sensitivity training to Transit Staff bus drivers.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- Dana McPherson said she received a call from a constituent regarding personal care attendants. Dana wanted to make it clear that personal care attendants are not required by Transit unless the physician says it is necessary. If the physician does not require a personal care attendant, riders DO NOT have to use one. She wanted to make sure the committee was aware of this fact in case it was brought to their attention. Peggy Stelly commented that this is the kind of information that needs to be placed on the Paratransit flyer that staff is working on.
- Deborah Aymond announced that Laura Breaux, the committee's local honoree, had been awarded the Statewide Governor's Award as well. The committee congratulated Laura on the accomplishment.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Dan Arabie asked about Property Tax Breaks for Citizens with Disabilities. Ben Berthelot stated he was not aware of any, but referred Dan to the Tax Assessor's office. Dan Arabie also had a question about millages being passed to offer services to Citizens with Disabilities. Ben told Dan that any millages would have to be approved by voters, and it was unlikely that this would be brought up for vote. He asked if there were any other communities who had this and Dan stated the only community he was aware of was Seattle. Dan Arabie invited the committee to a luncheon in June at the Affiliated Blind offices that he is hoping will feature the great granddaughter of Helen Keler as the guest speaker.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.
 8. The next meeting of the President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is scheduled for **Monday, January 12, 2009** from **11:30-12:30** in the **Council Briefing Room** on the first floor of Lafayette City Hall.