

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

Monday, March 12, 2007
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Steve Jankower; Dr. Ron Cheek; Carole Glover; Richard Phelps; Paul Fontana.

Guests in Attendance: Yenter Tu; April Srother; Katie Gremillion; Sedona Perrodin; Joseph Donellan; Mark Guillory; Angel Domingue; Lynn August; Sterling Guidry; Suzie Yost; Jacky Valentine Bailey; Leslie Perrodin

Staff Present: Lou Anna Angelle; Ben Berthelot; Tony Tramel; Dana McPherson

1. The November 2006 and February 2007 meeting minutes were approved.
2. Ben Berthelot provided an update on new board members. UL-Lafayette representatives said they would submit their nomination, and we are still awaiting a nomination from the Advocacy Center.
3. Steve Jankower introduced Tony Tramel, Director of Traffic and Transportation to address paratransit service outside of the city limits.

Tony Tramel discussed how the funding for the paratransit service works and explained that while we have a consolidated government, there is still a city budget and parish budget. The questions and issues centered around the expansion of paratransit service outside the corporate limits of the City of Lafayette and/or within three-quarters of a mile of existing fixed route buses. Tony indicated the City-Parish Council/City of Lafayette Council had, historically, limited fixed route transit service to within the corporate limits of the City of Lafayette because said budget for same is on the city side of the budget document. Tony pointed out this is, in essence, a policy decision established by the elected bodies. It is potentially possible services can go beyond the minimum mandated FTA regulations which are currently utilized; however it may be difficult to expand service because funds/resources received remain fixed. Tony indicated his staff would explore a potential pilot program for consideration. However, in order to do so, a number of factors must be established and/or projected.

These factors include:

- the area of service,
- the distance of travel from the pilot area to the corporate limits,
- the hours of service, and
- estimated/projected ridership by hours and/or by day.

One of the basic questions is the level of demand for said service. There was quite a lot of discussion centered on where the disabled population resides and/or works. This is a huge issue, but Section 8 housing was suggested as one potential, as well as contact with the Advocacy Center to see if they could guide us.

4. **Election of New Chairperson:** Steve Jankower asked for nominations. Dr. Cheek nominated Steve and Richard Phelps seconded the nomination. The committee voted unanimously to elect Steve Jankower as the Chairperson.
5. **Correspondence:** Steve reviewed a letter from Harold Arceneaux that was attached to the agenda.
6. **Phone Calls:** Ben Berthelot said one phone call was received from Roger Sims, who was looking for some assistance in getting a book published. Mr. Sims is a disabled man who typed the book with one finger. Ben notified him that the committee was an advisory committee and did not have any funds.
7. **Old Business:**
 - a. Taxicab Ordinance – Ben Berthelot explained that since the committee met last there has been a few new developments regarding insurance that taxicab companies have to provide. He stated that the committee might have read about this topic in the newspaper. Gail Smith, Director of Administrative Services, has now taken the lead on the project. The goal is still to go before the council with a revised ordinance, but Gail’s group will be looking into several things such as whether or not we will mandate meters in the cabs.
 - b. Movie Theaters - Ben Berthelot informed the committee that he visited the movie theaters in town at the committee’s request. The theaters are ADA compliant as it relates to LCC, i.e. parking, Handicap Accessibility. The theaters provide assisted listening devices free of charge, but do not provide closed caption programming. At one time Carmike had a show on Wednesday where it provided this feature, but not longer does. The theaters stated it was a cost issue.
 - c. New Grand - Paul Fontana was unable to get with the manager of the New Grand Theater.
8. **New Business:**
 - a. Lou Anna Angelle handed out a Resource Directory for Women and Children that is provided by the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women. Paul Fontana said that the booklet was great, but how were disabled population to know what services these organizations provide to the disabled. Lou and Ben will call the organizations to attempt to find this information out. It was also recommended that if anyone knew of agencies that provide resources to the disabled, that they contact Ben and Lou, so that they could look at putting together a handbook that would be more specifically related to the disabled.
 - b. Gerald Boudreaux or a staff member will be invited to the next meeting to talk about Camp “We can Do.” Steve said he wants the committee to

begin focusing on the many positive things that LCG and others do for the community.

9. **Public Comment:** Steve opened the floor and asked the public to keep their statements to 3 minutes. Tony Tramel said he would stay after the meeting to meet with anyone having a question about transit issues.
10. The next meeting of the President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities will be held Tuesday, April 10, 2007 from 11:30-12:30 pm in the Council Briefing Room on the first floor of Lafayette City Hall.