



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

Monday, April 13, 2009
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:	Laura Breaux; Jim Richard; Peggy Stelly; Marcelle Pradier; Deborah Aymond (Excused);
Guests in Attendance:	Mark Guillory; Dan Arabie; Randy Broussard; Jason Rochon; Melody Coon;
Staff Present:	Mike Mitchell; Ben Berthelot; Lou Anna Angelle

1. Jim Richard called the meeting to order.
2. The March meeting minutes were approved.
3. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Ben Berthelot referenced the attached emails from Harold Arceneaux and Richard Phelps
4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Leadership Training Update – Laura Breaux told the committee that the sub-committee had met to begin planning the Leadership Training Seminar. Possible Dates are June 10 and June 17th. Ben Berthelot said he would check on the availability of the City-Parish Council Auditorium. Peggy Stelly also mentioned Daigle Hall at the Affiliated Blind offices might be a possible meeting location especially if group work was going to be done. Ben said group work would be difficult in the City-Parish Council Auditorium because of the theatre style seating. Laura discussed a few of the ideas mentioned at the sub-committee meeting:

- a. Jim Richard would serve as MC
- b. 9 a.m. to 12 noon as the possible time
- c. 2 Main focuses – Assertiveness Training and Self Advocacy
- d. Resource Tables would be available
- e. Pre & Post Training Survey
- f. Biscuits, Coffee, Refreshments Served
- g. Door Prizes

The question of interpreters was posed by Peggy Stelly. It was agreed we would have a better feel for how to handle based on RSVP's. Peggy will also discuss with Dan having one interpreter to be used and whether or not this would work.

Paratransit Issue – Schedule Rides Treated as a Group Request – Mike Mitchell discussed Peggy's issue of rides being scheduled as group requests. Peggy informed Mike that if there is a meeting, and someone is supposed to be there early to set up, etc. and it is treated like a group request, that person is not able to

get to the location on time. Mike went through the FTA rules that transit has to follow. Peggy also mentioned rides at one time being denied to J. Wallace James for voting. Mike said he would look into the issue. A brief discussion followed on the Dodge Caravan that had been purchased by Acadiana Transit, van #43, which had been discussed at a previous meeting. Marcelle Pradier said she also found it difficult to get into the van. Mike informed the committee that staff had been looking into the issue and there doesn't appear to be any issue with the van meeting FTA requirements. However, they will continue to monitor, and will look into the suggestion of a more sturdy step-stool.

Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Services Presentation – May 11, 2009 – Plans are still on for the event. The issue of interpreters will be addressed with Dan Arabie. Ben will be sending out a news release closer to the event.

Closed Captioning – Ben passed out a draft of a letter that will be sent by the committee to the local television stations as per Dan Arabie's request. The committee approved the letter. Ben will run the letter by Dan to get his approval.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Peggy Stelly handed out a flyer for White Cane Awareness Week, which is May 13-20.
- b. Laura Breaux has applied to be on the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council. She should know whether or not she is appointed soon.

6. Comments from the Public:

- a. Jason Rochon attended the meeting at Lou Anna Angelle's invitation. He is part of a non-profit group that provides wheelchair ramps to individuals with disabilities free of charge in the Acadiana Area. The committee thanked him for coming and said they would get the word out.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.
 8. The next meeting of the President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is scheduled for **Monday, May 11, 2009, 11:30-12:30** in the **Council Briefing Room** on the first floor of Lafayette City Hall.