



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

Monday, May 11, 2009
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Laura Breaux; Jim Richard; Peggy Stelly; Marcelle Pradier; Deborah Aymond; Brad Walker

Guests in Attendance: Mark Guillory; Dan Arabie; Melody Coon; Donna Andrus; Michele Bienvenu; Donielle Watkins; Shirley P. Perron; Sabrina Hagan; Ann Boyd

Staff Present: Ben Berthelot

1. Jim Richard called the meeting to order.
2. The April meeting minutes were approved.
3. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Ben Berthelot stated the only correspondence received related to RSVP's for the Emergency Preparedness Training event that took place before the committee meeting.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

Leadership Training Update – Laura Breaux told the committee that the subcommittee has been planning the Leadership Training Seminar. The date of the event is June 10, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon in the City-Parish Council Auditorium. The training will be on assertiveness and advocacy. The Director of the Family Tree will serve as one speaker and the subcommittee is looking for another panelist. Jim Richard suggested some of the guests in attendance be asked to serve on the subcommittee. It was suggested that once the flyer is prepared for the event that it be emailed to the entire email list, not just the committee members. The subcommittee was to meet immediately following the committee meeting and will be sending more updates.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Deborah Aymond discussed the Job Fair that will be held again in October. She asked Ben Berthelot to look into the facility fee at the Heymann Center again. Deborah encouraged the committee and guests to get involved by working the fair and helping to get the word out by sending out information to their contacts
- b. Mark Guillory mentioned another job fair that will be held May 22nd at the Louisiana Technical College Lafayette location. He will get the information to the committee.

- c. Deborah Aymond asked that a Thank You Note be written to Dawn Melendez for the Emergency Preparedness Training she offered that the committee hosted.

6. Comments from the Public:

- a. Michele Bienvenu updated the committee on Haven Hills. She said they have recently started a program called Friday Night Hangout that is open to that age 15-35. She said it is an opportunity to socialize and meet new people.
- b. Michele introduced Donielle Watkins, founder of DREAMS. Donielle has been instrumental in lining up recreational activities for children with Disabilities. She started a little league baseball team, which led to the creation of a basketball league. She is looking for a facility to use because Heymann Park, which was offered by the city, was not large enough. Brad Walker asked her to put together a proposal on a facility that he would run by University officials. Deborah Aymond asked Ben Berthelot to look into any other city facilities that might be available.
- c. Donna Andrus with the Autism Society said the group has been offering recreational stipends and that this year, they hoped to offer 100 stipends to assist children with disabilities in attending Camp We Can Do and other events.
- d. Dan Arabie needs to finalize whether or not City-Parish President Durel will be able to attend the Helen Keller event in June; Ben said he would confirm and for sure they would be able to provide the proclamation Dan requested if Dan can get the text/wording to him.

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, June 8, 2009, 11:30-12:30** in the **Council Briefing Room** on the first floor of Lafayette City Hall.