



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

Monday, June 9, 2008

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Harold Arceneaux; Jim Richard; Peggy Stelly; Richard Phelps
Guests in Attendance: Dan Arabie; Chuck Falcon; Yenter Tu; Mark Guillory; Donna Roy; Zelie Guidry; Monica Thigpen
Council Members Present: Councilman Boudreaux, Councilman Shelvin
Staff Present: Mike Mitchell; Dana McPherson; Pearly Alfred; Lou Anna Angelle

1. Jim Richard called the meeting to order.
2. The May meeting minutes were approved
3. **Correspondence:** Email from Peggy Stelly regarding the Para Transit Guide
4. **Update on Voucher System**

Dana McPherson indicated that she was still researching the voucher system. She has spoken to two (2) cab companies and they are interested in the program.

There was a request that the Braille signage be repaired by the Transit Department where needed. Dana indicated that they would handle this.

Mike Mitchell stressed that the operating system is matched with federal funding and no funds come from the Parish. He indicated that the federal funds are urbanized and not eligible for the rural area.

5. Para Transit Guide – Reservation Section

Peggy Stelly wants to bring awareness of the reservation portion of the guide. As indicated in the guide, ride requests may be made one (1) to fourteen (14) days in advance of the actual scheduled trip, but no later than 4:30 p.m. one day before your ride date.

She also mentioned that awareness of the “will-call” section should be noted. This section states that “if your trip is for a medical appointment you may ask for a “will-call.” As per the guide this means, upon completion of your medical appointment call your paratransit service provide (337) 237-8968 to advise them of your request for return trip. The next available bus will arrive for your return trip.

As per the guide, since this is a shared-ride service, the driver may make other stops on the way to your scheduled drop-off point, so it's best to allow plenty of time to get to and from your destination. Ride times from pick-up to drop-off can be up to 1 hour and 15 minutes, which mirror ride times on fixed-route service. If you are unsure of how much time you should allot for your trip, please ask the reservation taker for suggestions when scheduling your pickup.

The committee working with the Transit Office will develop a flyer with pertinent information the committee feels should be distributed to the riders regarding certain misconceptions about the Para Transit Service. The committee and Transit Division will also work with Ben Berthelot to provide this information to the news media.

Dan Arabie invited Mike Mitchell to attend the Deaf/Blind meeting in September. Dan informed Mike Mitchell that some deaf/blind citizens are being left at the bus stops. There was a brief discussion by the committee regarding this issue and Mike Mitchell indicated he is looking into this situation, which was brought to his attention at the last committee meeting.

6. **ADA Coordinator** – deferred to the next meeting

7. Taxicab Service

Harold Arceneaux indicated that only one Taxicab Company in town can accommodate an individual in a wheelchair. There was a brief discussion regarding the taxicab service in town.

8. Peggy Stelly suggested that Ben Berthelot provide the committee with an update on the Park & Recreation Exploratory Committee meetings that have been held. She is interested in knowing what activities are being proposed for the adult disabled individuals. There was a brief discussion regarding the City's Therapeutic Program.

9. Yenter Tu indicated that he has concerns regarding fire alarms in buildings.

10. The committee asked Mike Mitchell to provide them with an update on the Para Transit Contract that will be going out on bid this year.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

12. The next meeting of the President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is scheduled for **Monday, July 14, 2008** from **11:30-12:30** in the **Council Briefing Room** on the first floor of Lafayette City Hall.