



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

Monday, November 9, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Donna Andrus; Deborah Aymond; Laura Breaux; Marcelle Pradier; Jim Richard; Peggy Stelly; Brad Walker
Guests in Attendance: Mark Guillory; Donielle Watkins
Staff Present: Lou Anna Angelle

1. Jim Richard called the meeting to order.
2. The October minutes were approved.
3. Jim Richard introduced the newest member of the committee, Donna Andrus.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Jim Richard discussed an email he received from Harold Arceneaux.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

Disability Job Fair – Debra Aymond provided the committee with the final statistics from the Job Fair:

388 Job Seekers
42 Employers
LRS received 26 referrals
40 Job Seekers visited the mobile van
65 Job Seekers used the e-application room
52 people attended the Benefits Planning sessions
9 people indicated on their exit survey that they had a job interview scheduled

Deborah Aymond informed the committee that Ben Berthelot's assistance made this year's event a great success.

Disabled Youths Sub-Committee – Marcelle Pradier provided the committee with the minutes from the sub-committee meeting. She indicated the following:

- Melody Cooper is no longer in Lafayette and she is looking for another committee member.
- The resource website was discussed at great length and the committee will be looking for sponsors.

- The upcoming youth events are as follows: Bowling (Lafayette Parish) – December 4, 2009, Parish Meet – March 2010 @ ULL, and the Area Meet – April 2010 @ ULL.
- Their next meeting will be held on December 3, 2009 @ noon.

2009 Disability Committee Awards –The ceremony was a great success. The recipients were well deserving of the awards they received. There was a brief discussion about potential nominations for next year’s event. Jim Richard was thanked for providing the food.

UL Creating Equal Employment Opportunities Forum - Brad Walker mentioned that Ben Berthelot and Deborah Aymond’s assistance helped to make this first forum a big success. The event was well attended. Brad briefly discussed the themes of event:

1. Become an advocate
2. Educate yourself about your disability
3. Don’t settle for mediocrity

6. NEW BUSINESS

Handicap Parking Enforcement – Deborah Aymond and Peggy Stelly voiced their concerns regarding the issue Harold Arceneaux brought before the committee last month regarding the problem handicapped individuals are having finding empty handicap parking spots in this community. It was noted that “non-handicap individuals” are using these spots which causes a hardship to the citizens that actually need the parking spaces and enforcement is a big problem. The committee is going to look into having a campaign to bring awareness to the citizens in Lafayette Parish.

The committee wants Chief Jim Craft/or representative and Tony Tramel/or representative to attend the December Meeting to discuss this matter.

“Choose the Right” – Brad Walker mentioned that he and Dr. Warren are working on the “Choose the Right” Awareness Campaign. This campaign will bring several issues handicapped citizens/students are experiencing on campus to the forefront. He will provide the committee with an update on their progress at next month’s meeting.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mark Guillory thanked the committee for the work they are doing to bring awareness to the needs of handicap citizens in Lafayette

8. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

9. The next meeting of the President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is scheduled for **Monday, December 14, 2009, 11:30-12:30** in the **Council Briefing Room** on the first floor of Lafayette City Hall.