



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

Monday, December 14, 2009
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Donna Andrus; Laura Breaux; Marcelle Pradier; Jim Richard; Peggy Stelly; Brad Walker
Guests in Attendance: Mark Guillory; Randy Broussard; Germaine Simpson; Libby McMahan; Donielle Watkins
Staff Present: Ben Berthelot; Chief Jim Craft; Mike Mitchell; Keisha Hickman

1. Jim Richard called the meeting to order.
2. The November meeting minutes were approved.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Laura Breaux suggested the committee write a letter to Brandon Burris of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs thanking him for his presence at the committee's local awards ceremony.

B. Handicap Parking Enforcement:

Peggy Stelly discussed what other communities were doing as it relates to handicap parking enforcement. Chief Jim Craft discussed what the police department does year-round to enforce handicap parking. He mentioned that the weekend of Black Friday the department made an extra detail in this area that resulted in anywhere between 20-50 citations. He is hoping to work with City Court to be able to track these citations better. Chief Craft stated that resources of his department don't allow officers to concentrate on this issue all the time, but it is a year round effort. He also mentioned that some who are ticketed are actually allowed to park in the area but just don't have the tag displayed properly. He offered to send a representative to meetings in the future to keep the committee up to date on this issue and others. He also noted that the department had done several PSA's on this issue throughout the past year.

Keisha Hickman from the parking enforcement department followed Chief Craft and echoed much of what had been said. She also talked about the adjudication process for those who may have been ticketed for not displaying the tag properly.

C. **Job Fair:** Randy Broussard stated that Deborah Aymond wasn't able to make the meeting because of a family illness. He presented committee members with a certificate of appreciation for their efforts in assisting with the job fair, which was a huge success.

- D. **Disabled Youths Sub Committee:** Marcelle handed out the minutes from the sub-committee's previous meeting. She stated the sub-committee is in need of members and is open to anyone. She announced that DREAMS had agreed to help allocate funds for the resources website that the sub-committee is working on, and that Americorps members will enter the information on to the site.
- E. **State Gold Awards:** Jim Richard offered congratulations to all the local award winners who represented us so well in Baton Rouge. Ben Berthelot asked for a copy of the news release so that he could send it to the local media on behalf of the committee.
- F. **Leadership Training:** Peggy Stelly cited her disappointment that the committee has been talking about this for a while and nothing has been done yet. However she is hopeful in the spring that the Assertiveness Training can happen. She wants to set a date for the Leadership Training at the committee's next meeting and asked committee members to provide a couple of dates. Marcelle Pradier questioned the name of the training and Laura Breaux agreed that it can be called anything the committee wants to call it.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **Choose the Right Campaign:** Brad Walker talked about his and Dr. Warren's latest project, a "Choose the Right Campaign." The goal is to encourage citizens who are disabled and all citizens to be a part of the solution as opposed to being a part of the problem. He has spoken to Dean Pratt on campus and Dean Pratt is very excited about the campaign. The University has agreed to be a part of the project. Brad is exploring ideas on how to get the entire community engaged in the project. One idea he has is to create a "tracking meter" to judge how various departments on campus are doing with awareness on issues such as use of elevators designated only for students and faculty who are disabled. They have a lot of other ideas, and he will be pitching the campaign to the UL Faculty Senate after the first of the year. He wants the committee to get involved as well and help bring the concept to the entire community, not just the University. The committee liked the idea and several committee members offered to assist.
- 5. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.
 - 6. The next meeting of the President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is scheduled for **Monday, January 11, 2010, 11:30-12:30** in the **Council Briefing Room** on the first floor of Lafayette City Hall.

Ben
November 29, 2012