

**LAFAYETTE CITY-PARISH PRESIDENT'S AWARENESS  
COMMITTEE FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES  
MEETING MINUTES**

**291-8308**

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The attendees for the Lafayette City-Parish President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities meeting that was held on Monday, February 12, 2007 are as follows: Steve Jankower, Paul Fontana, Harold Arceneaux, Yentur Tu, Lynn August, Mary Ann Ficaro, Sterling Guidry, Monica Griffith, Mark Guillory, Suzie Yost, Sedonia Perrodin, Ben Berthelot and Lou Anna Angelle.

Members Absent: Dr. Cheek, Richard Phelps

Members Excused: Carol Glover

1. Steve Jankower called the meeting to order.
2. Steve introduced Paul Fontana who is replacing Dr. Sibley. Ben Berthelot informed the committee that he is still waiting on the appointment from the Advocacy Center and UL.
3. The following correspondence were reviewed:
  - a. A phone call requesting information about the Social Security Office
  - b. A phone call requesting information about the Disability Awareness Committee.
  - c. Email from Denver Noble regarding Housing Advocates Storm Albany in HistoricRally Day.
4. Harold Arceneaux gave the committee a summary of his concerns regarding the Taxicab Control Board. He informed the committee that Marcus Bruno is looking into revising the ordinance. Ben Berthelot will discuss this matter with Dee Stanley.
5. Harold Arceneaux informed the committee that he and Carol Glover have been assisting the Police Department with the sensitivity training. Harold is very pleased with the progress in this area. Carol Glover was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following email to the committee:

I would like to inform the committee that Harold Arceneaux and I have been doing some sensitivity training at the Lafayette Parish Police Department.

We have already completed two trainings and are scheduled for one hour each month for the entire year from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. My trainings are based on the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program based on the Memphis model. The CIT programs are trainings that consist of information that clarify mental illness and how law enforcement can learn how to de-escalate a potential crisis situation, general information about metal illness and their symptoms, how to communicate with family member during a crisis and what mental

health consumers would like to relay to police officers to name a few of the issues involved when a police officer is called.

I have also been able to use some of the incidents that have happened to me because of my visual impairment to clarify what people with disabilities have to live each day. Plus I am able to give examples of how a situation can escalate because of a person's disability.

The officers have been receptive to the trainings and taking part with asking questions and concerns.

Harold has been more involved with giving examples of how the officers can make sure parking spaces for people with disabilities can be enforced and disability laws.

I would be happy to answer any questions about this training or any input. You can contact me at [cglover211@bellsouth.net](mailto:cglover211@bellsouth.net) and phone number 337-234-6291.

6. Steve Jankower informed the committee that he feels the committee should bring awareness of good things this city has to offer the disabled community. He would like to have representatives from agencies to inform the committee about their services. Some of the agencies Steve would like to hear presentation from are: Families Helping Families, LARC and the Lafayette Consolidated Government Recreation Department.

There was a discussion regarding a comprehensive guide with all the agencies included that could assist the disabled community. Lou Angelle will check on the current resource directories that have been assembled by other committees.

Steve Jankower stressed to the committee that he is not trying to move the committee to look at only the good services that are out there. He still feels the committee should address the problems still faced by the disabled community.

7. The following information was discussed by the attendees:

- **Yentur Tu**

He read the minutes and was interested in the portion regarding the Carmike Theater letting the handicapped couple in for free. There was also a discussion about the new Grand Theater. Paul Fontana will check with the new Grand Theater regarding the accommodation for the handicap.

Closed captioning is still a big issue that needs to be addressed for the deaf viewers. Paul Fontana suggested that the committee send a letter to the theaters.

Yentur Tu informed the committee that OC means that the closed captioning is already in the movie and CC means you need the device.

Ben will go by each theater and find out what services they provide to the handicapped patrons.

Yenter Tu brought to the committees attention that several businesses in the Lafayette area may not be in compliance with ADA requirement. This information will be forwarded to the appropriate department.

**Mary Ann Ficaro**

She had some concerns about how the committee handles complaints. She indicated that City Transit is up to city corporal limit. Steve informed Mary Anna Ficaro that the committee is only advisory for the City-Parish President. Mary Ann suggested that the City-Parish President and the Directors should be invited to attend a few meeting.

**Harold Arceneaux**

Harold indicated that he feels the Council should be more involved.

8. The committee and attendees discussed several transportation issues. The committee requested that Tony Tramel is asked to attend the next meeting.
9. The meeting adjourned at 12:40.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, March 12, 2007, 11:30 a.m.** in the Council Briefing Room on the first floor of City Hall.