



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

Monday, May 12, 2008

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Harold Arceneaux; Jim Richard; Peggy Stelly;
Excused: Richard Phelps
Guests in Attendance: Dan Arabie; Deborah Aymond; Chuck Falcon; Yenter Tu;
 Gretta Manuel; Monica Thigpen
Staff Present: Ben Berthelot; Mike Mitchell; Pearly Alfred; Lou Anna Angelle

1. Jim Richard called the meeting to order.
2. The April meeting minutes were approved with the following correction: removal of the following statement by Harold Arceneaux
 - Harold Arceneaux also requested that Rick Zeno, ADA Coordinator for the Lafayette Consolidated Government be invited to the June meeting.
3. Correspondence:
 - There was a brief discussion regarding the email that was received from Mike Mitchell pertaining to the Para Transit denial averages. See chart below:

Month/Year	Total # of Day Trips	Total # of Day Denied Trips	Ratio of Denials
April, 2008	2,821	13	0.4608%
March, 2008	2,631	15	0.5701%
February, 2008	2,647	15	0.5667%
January, 2008	2,656	12	0.4518%
December, 2007	2,288	13	0.5682%
November, 2007	2,610	19	0.7280%
October, 2007	2,961	19	0.6417%
Totals	18,614	106	0.5695%
AVERAGE DENIAL RATE			0.5696%

Month/Year	Total # of Night Trips	Total # of Night Denied Trips	Ratio of Denials
April, 2008	164	1	0.6098%
March, 2008	134	0	0.0000%
February, 2008	137	0	0.0000%
January, 2008	137	0	0.0000%
December, 2007	164	1	0.6098%

November, 2007	135	0	0.0000%
October, 2007	159	0	0.0000%
Totals	1,030	2	0.1942%
AVERAGE DENIAL RATE			0.1742%

The committee had a discussion regarding the scheduling of the rides, and decided that a fact sheet should be developed and distributed to the riders.

Harold Arceneaux provided information regarding the ADA Coordinator that is mandated by the Department of Justice. Harold voiced his concerns regarding the lack of an ADA Coordinator. This matter will be brought to the Lafayette Consolidated Governments attention.

4. There was a brief discussion regarding the Disability Awareness Committee By-Laws. There are concerns regarding the purpose, meetings and attendance policy. Ben Berthelot informed the committee that they could change the by-laws if they wished. The By-laws were from the inaugural committee.
5. The voucher system update will be provided to the committee at the June meeting
6. The committee was notified that Paul Fontana has resigned due to his job requirements.
7. Pearly Alfred, Parking Administrator, provided the committee with a summary of how her department handles handicapped parking violations. She encouraged the public to call her office, 291-8561, when violators are noticed in handicapped parking spaces and someone will be dispatched to handle the violation.

She informed the committee that the Parking Control Officers working hours are as follows:

7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

The Police Department patrols: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 a.m. Police Department

The Sheriff's Department patrols outside the city limits.

8. Peggy Stelly provided the group with information regarding the "Bus Hailing Kit" for the deaf-blind. She was provided with three kits from the Lane Transit District in Eugene, Oregon.
9. Deborah Aymond notified the committee that the next Disability Job Fair will be held on October 28, 2008.

10. Harold Arceneaux wanted the following comment placed in the minutes:

“Harold Arceneaux wants to help Lafayette Consolidated Government, not cause them to spend more money.”

11. Jim Richard welcomed the following two employees of the Southwest Louisiana Independent Center (SLIC):

Gretta Manuel, Supervised Independent Living Program Director

Monica Thigpen, IL/Specialist

SLIC provides information and Referral, Advocacy, Peer Counseling and other Independent Living Services, to develop community options for persons with significant disabilities in Southwest and South Central Louisiana.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.
13. The next meeting of the President’s Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is scheduled for **Monday, June 9, 2008** from **11:30-12:30** in the **Council Briefing Room** on the first floor of Lafayette City Hall.