



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

Monday, August 13, 2012
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:	Donna Andrus, Randy Broussard, Lynette Fontenot, Zelig Guidry, Mark Guillory, Rose Shuff, Donielle Watkins
Guests in Attendance:	Deborah Aymond, W. M. Bullen, Jr., Dora Chandler, Ray Green, Edith Swiney, Jayla Swiney, Emma Wiltz, Michelle Dewey
Staff in Attendance:	Lou Anna Angelle, Denise Ferguson

1. Donielle Watkins called the meeting to order.

Denise Ferguson, Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor for the Lafayette Consolidated Government, provided the committee with an update on the 2012 Camp We Can Do, held at the Heymann Recreation Center. She provided the following information:

- 91 registered campers
- The same format as 2011 was used, dividing groups by functioning levels
- Activities provided: swimming, bowling, musician performed for the kids, Ag Center provided an exhibit
- The kids were taken to New Orleans
- 2012 Camp was a great success
- Brief discussion about the proposed fee increase for 2013

2. Minutes

- The July minutes were reviewed and accepted. Zelig Guidry made the motion and Donna Andrus seconded, all in favor.

3. Correspondence

- Lou Anna Angelle received an email regarding American Sign Language (ASL) Orientation DVD that is available for Municipalities and Local Government Agencies. The committee requested that the email be forwarded to them.
- Deaf Action Center newsletter was distributed to the committee.
- Flyer for the Job Fair Preparation Workshop to be held on October 15th & 17th, 9:00 a.m. to noon, and October 16th & 18th, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Goodwill Industries Job Connection Building, 1225 Kaliste Saloom Road.

4. Old Business

- Carlee Alm-LaBar will discuss the next steps regarding building accessibility at the next meeting. Jayla Swiney mentioned the following locations that have accessibility problems:
 1. Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)
 2. St. Pierre's Art Studio.
- Job Fair- Randy Broussard provided the committee with flyers and posters for the upcoming Job Fair to be held on October 25th, 2012, 9:00 am to noon at the Performance Arts & Convention Center (HPACC)
- Awards Ceremony- The 2012 Awards Ceremony will be held on October 30th, at the Robicheaux Center. One nomination form has been received. Deborah Aymonds provided the committee with an update.
- Carlee Alm-Labar will report on the library services for the disabled issue at the next meeting.

5. New Business

- A. Donielle Watkins informed the committee about the upcoming Compete4aCause Fundraiser to be held on Saturday, September 8, 2012, at the Acadian Oaks Retreat Center. Some of the activities are as follows: Cook-off, Art Barn, Sunset Trail Run/1-mile Fun Run, Fishing Rodeo and a Concert.
- B. The committee requested that a representative from Families Helping Families be invited to the next meeting to provide information regarding their organization.

6. Comments from the Public

- A. Jayla Swiney provided the committee with the following three issues:
 - Possibility of having an annual day of awareness for citizens who are in wheelchairs and are quadriplegic. The date she had in mind is her birthday February 9th.
 - Starting a cerebral palsy support group
 - Parking issue at St. Pierre's Art Studio for someone in a wheelchair. She is requesting that handicap parking be placed near the studio. This issue will be looked into and results will be reported back to the committee.
- B. Ray Green addressed the committee regarding the lack of chairs with arms in auditoriums and businesses where speaking engagements are held. The arms would assist individuals needing the support to stand-up. He asked the committee for assistance with getting the word out to businesses regarding this issue.

He mentioned to the committee that Acadiana Mall doesn't have electric carts which could be utilized to assist individuals needing the cart to move about the Mall. He contacted the Mall representative who informed him that it was a liability issue and they would not be placing electric carts in the Mall. Mr. Green said he wasn't sure if the committee was the right place to start, but he needed some assistance in having the mall consider the carts because larger cities have them for their patrons.

Mr. Green informed the committee that he is thinking of forming a committee named "Handicap Ratings" to address some of the issue affecting the disabled citizens. Jayla Swiney offered her assistance to Mr. Green.

The committee agreed to look into his issues.

7. The next meeting of the President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is scheduled for Monday September 10, 2012 at 11:30 am-12:30 pm in the Council Briefing Room on the first floor of City Hall.