

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

Monday, September 17, 2007
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Steve Jankower; Dr. Ron Cheek; Richard Phelps; Peggy Stelly

Guests in Attendance: Harold Arceneaux; Linda Trahan, LRS; Mark Guillory

Staff Present: Lou Anna Angelle; Ben Berthelot; Mike Mitchell

1. Steve Jankower called the meeting to order and the August 2007 meeting minutes were approved.
2. Steve Jankower introduced Peggy Stelly, new board member, who is the Advocacy Center appointment.
3. Ben Berthelot reviewed the calls to the Disability Awareness Hotline. There were three calls. 2 calls were regarding legal advice and both were referred to the Advocacy Center. The third call was in regard to a disabled lady (age 51) who was not eligible for services through the Greenhouse because she was not old enough. Ben recommended the family call Parks and Recreation to discuss possible activities offered by the department. Peggy Stelly mentioned that she is working with Parks and Recreation regarding opportunities for the disabled. Dr. Cheek asked that the Department look into the possibility of "concreting" the path around Girard Park so that those in wheelchairs could use the track.
4. **Old Business:** The committee reviewed the Paratransit Survey. 43 surveys were turned in, the majority by Peggy Stelly. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the total cost estimates to provide the service outside the city limits. Mike Mitchell will verify the number, but it was believed to be \$50,000. Linda Trahan stated that for the service to be viable it would need to run full-time so that employees could access the service. Lou Anna Angelle stated that there was a possibility that the COG Executive CMTE meeting, where Dr. Cheek and Steve Jankower were scheduled to pitch the concept to area mayors, had been cancelled. Given that fact, and the committee's desire to have more surveys turned in Dr. Cheek moved and Peggy Stelly seconded to allow for 60 more days for returning surveys. The motion was approved. It will be brought up again in November for discussion.
5. **New Business:** Richard Phelps asked about the no-show cancellation policy. Ben informed Richard that he, Mike Mitchell, Lou Anna Angelle and Dana McPherson had met on the subject and the policy is being looked into to ensure that there is a way to let staff know about cancellations that were reported and should not have been.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.
7. The next meeting of the President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is scheduled for October 15, 2007 from 11:30-12:30 in the Council Briefing Room on the first floor of Lafayette City Hall.