

Commission on People with Disabilities
January 24, 2007
Southern Maryland Higher Education Center

Minutes

Attendants: Julie Randall
Sheral St. Clair
Susan Erichsen
Christina Bishop
Cathy Zumbrun
Dennis Phillips
Kendall Sorenson-Clark
Bill Nicholas
Cindy Phillips
Pam Main
Mark Kalmus
Paula Andreas
Paula Carpenter

Excused: Margaret Ann Stewart, Birgit Williamson

Call to order - The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by C. Bishop. The meeting agenda was distributed and reviewed by attendants. A listing of commission members was distributed so attendees could update with any changes. All meeting attendees introduce themselves.

Review previous meeting minutes – Minutes from the previous meeting were distributed for review. D. Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by C. Zumbrun.

Financial Report – C. Bishop presented the FY 2008 Budget Request handout to members and offered a brief explanation of the items requested.

County Compliance / New Laws and/or Regulations – C. Bishop reminded members how to access the ADA website through the County Government website. A brief discussion followed regarding the grievance procedure. It was mentioned that links to federal and state resources are available through the ADA website and that these are all excellent resources for the community. C. Bishop distributed an announcement to members that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will be conducting a public hearing on January 26, 2007 in Crownsville, MD at 1:00 p.m. The hearing will be regarding proposal to revise Maryland Building Performance Standards Regulations for one and two- family dwellings. Members were requested to read through the handout and be aware of possible changes affecting buildings.

Committee Status Reports – Disability Awareness Day will be March 24, 2007 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. C. Bishop mentioned that preparations are well under way with numerous vendors confirmed, some new vendors attending and others showing interest. Approximately 40 tables will be needed for the event and all members are asked to find sources if possible. P. Andreas has sent letters out as well as procuring \$300 on behalf of the Health Department. K. Sorenson is assisting to procure more volunteers for the event. C. Bishop has requested the assistance of Community Service workers and reminded members that more assistance is needed to assure the success of the event with such duties as set-up and break-down, trouble-shooting, etc. P. Main has been successful with acquiring door prizes from many sources and is continuing to inquire about further donations. A discussion followed regarding the kites that have always been a part of this event. We always look for the most cost efficient source, and it was decided that a company would be allowed to supply them with a company advertising logo to assist in keeping costs down. J. Randall mentioned that the DAD event has been in existence since 2000.

Events / Resources / Conferences - C. Bishop distributed a handout of Maryland Alliance of Local Disability Commissions – Local Commission Profiles, which outlined other counties general information and website addresses. Members are encouraged to review this information to get ideas for our commission. J. Randall shared information regarding her trip with her family to Cape Cod. She mentioned how helpful the Community Accessibility Guide (mentioned and supplied at the November 30, 2006 COPD meeting) was in planning activities and making them successful for the family with a disabled member. The guide was compiled by the Chamber of Commerce and members were requested to review it and consider the undertaking of pooling current resources together to create a publication for our area to assist visitors and community. C. Bishop distributed a printout entitled “Recreation Activities in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC” for members to review and consider. It was mentioned that possible cooperation with the Tourism Department could be helpful if a task is undertaken to update our website with this type of information.

New Business – C. Bishop passed out the current by-laws of the COPD to all members. Please review and provide feedback at the COPD February meeting (to be held on February 22, 2007 at the SMHEC location). The nomination and election of a Vice Chair will also be done at the February meeting. It was mentioned that the Vice Chair term will expire on June 30, 2007, and that the VC assumes the duties of the Chair in his/her absence. J. Randall made a suggestion that the commission establishes its goals, picks a few to concentrate on, and does the appropriate research to produce a specific product. One of the benefits of the COPD is to create a tangible product to share with the community it seeks to assist. J. Randall asked all members to share ideas concerning what they wish the COPD to accomplish. Some of the ideas to assist the disabled community were; more jobs and/or internships, better transit/travel possibilities as well as more funding for transit, better outlook for independent living, concerns for the elderly, promoting tourism, better accessibility, cooperation of “private source” busses, monthly update of new services available, getting the word out to the public about “special services” available, raise awareness, reevaluate transportation plans, provide better health care, make travel “fair” for all community, “pool” resources to better accommodate the disabled community, provide more opportunity and programs for the severely disabled, possibility of employment fair, assist in making the social lives of the disabled more enriched, form teen groups, etc. J. Randall said that she felt “energized” by the meeting today and that we will make a difference.

Next COPD meeting & Adjournment – February 22, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Paula Carpenter