



Commission for People with Disabilities (COPD)
April 19, 2011
Room 14 Governmental Center/Potomac Building

Minutes

Attendees: Susan Erichsen, Carole Woodward, Pamala Emplit, Mary Ann Coontz, Kelly Reynolds, Bill Nicholas, Rebecca Kessler, Christina Bishop, Sheral St. Clair, Marie Robinson, Cynthia Brown

Staff: Adrienne Raines

Excused: Paula Andreas, Rocco Aiello, Jolanda Campbell, Sam Brown, Lois Coryell, Janet Smith, Annette Greene, Tomica Scriber

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m. by Chairperson S. Erichsen.

Minutes: The March minutes were approved as submitted.

Updates/Announcements:

- Leonardtown Library reports that the Commission's awareness display was well-received.
- Webpage changes have been submitted. Statistics for 2010 show the Commission's page and its contents were visited over 2,300 times and tagged over 4,000 times.
- Maryland Accessibility Code training will take place at the Forrest Tech Center on April 27th. The training is free; contact C. Bishop for more information.
- S. St. Clair informed the Commission that Vicki Brown passed away in late March. C. Bishop sent a condolence card on the Commission's behalf.
- Recreation and Parks is asking all County residents to complete a survey, the results of which will be taken into consideration in updating the Land Preservation Parks & Recreation Plan. C. Bishop asked members to push the survey link out to as many as possible.
- M. Robinson will attend the ADA Symposium in Las Vegas.
- C. Brown reports the Best Buddies program currently has a 20 year old female volunteer Buddy residing in St. Mary's County who would like to be matched with a young female with a disability. Contact Ben Huggins at (301) 374-2450 or BenjaminHuggins@bestbuddies.org for more information.

Updated Membership Contact List: An updated contact list was requested. C. Bishop stated that she has a spreadsheet that she can email to the Commission to update. S. Erichsen referenced the by-laws about which agencies should have representation on the Commission and will inquire with C. Brown regarding follow up. Members also requested that affiliations to member names be added to the county's website.

Budget: C. Brown advised there is approximately \$600 unexpended in the Commission's budget that must be spent or forfeited by June 30. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously upheld for C. Bishop, C. Brown, S. St. Clair and J. Campbell to work together in spending the remaining funds. A new display board and table skirt will be among the items purchased.

Caregiver's Conference: R. Kessler reports the Conference was a success, with many people commenting positively about C. Bishop's presentation. J. Campbell was thanked for recruiting volunteers who assisted throughout the day.

PSA's/Advertising: Static pieces are done and should be airing randomly on Channel 95 by the end of the week. Electronic versions have been emailed to members. S. Erichsen reports that the County's PIO Office can produce a professional quality commercial/PSA if the Commission scripts one. R. Kessler will bring a video produced by the PIO office for the Commission to review.

Lions Club Camp: Camp Merrick dates should be set by the end of April; B. Nicholas will keep the Commission informed.

ADA Anniversary: Greenwell State Park will host in July; volunteers are needed to assist J. Campbell. A County Commissioner and a person with a disability will be invited to speak. S. Erichsen suggested picking a date and getting onto Commissioners' schedules soon to avoid conflicts. A subcommittee will be formed in the near future to flesh out details. S. Erichsen asked members to refer friends and associates with expertise (graphic design, public speakers, caterers, etc.) to volunteer/assist the Commission.

County Fair: The Commission will have a table at the Fair in September. All members are expected to participate by rotating shifts to ensure coverage for the 4-day duration. A list of names is submitted to Fair staff, so members will have to sign up in advance for their shift or possibly be charged at the gate. C. Bishop will try to locate the Commission's ADA banner.

Commission Brunch/Team Meeting: Sheral St. Clair will host brunch at her home for members and their families on a Sunday in August (date TBA). Members will pay \$5 each to offset costs.

ADA Awards: S. Erichsen will serve as Committee Chair; the committee will meet soon and will coordinate the mailing. She requested that mailing lists appropriate to use for the awards mailing be sent to her. C. Bishop motioned that the Outstanding Person with a Disability Award be renamed to the Vicki Brown Award to honor the former Commission member. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Community Outreach/ADA Training Opportunities: The Commission discussed ways to create awareness and offer information/training opportunities throughout the community, with a focus on the Chamber of Commerce and the base. C. Bishop suggested tracking the trainings, presentations and awareness activities already occurring and expanding to offer these in new venues and to new audiences. M. Coontz volunteered to track this information and requested an overview meeting with C. Bishop. It was also suggested that if members have presenting or speaking engagements on other subject matter, it might be feasible to also include information about the Commission.

Holiday-Themed Social Event: The Commission will explore sponsoring a Pals dance at the Center for Life Enrichment, ideally in November or December. Recreation & Parks could assist in advertising the event; it will be published in the Center's monthly calendar. C. Bishop stated that Leonard Hall is usually available during that timeframe if an alternate site is needed.

Tourism Guide Rating Accessibility: The Commission discussed compiling a tourism guide that focuses on accessible establishments and facilities in the County. C. Bishop suggested focusing on County facilities to ensure they are compliant and easy to utilize. C. Brown, C. Bishop and M. Robinson will form a County Building User Group to conduct site visits; other members wishing to be involved were invited to email C. Bishop. C. Bishop will obtain a list of County facilities from the Public Works Department. She requested persons with disabilities volunteer/be recruited to join the User Group.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 4:30pm in Room 14 of the Potomac Building.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Adrienne Raines.