

Disability Awareness Commission

Minutes

Human Relations Conference Room

March 19, 2008 3:00pm

Call to Order

Co-chairperson Pokela called the meeting to order at 3:07PM.

Commission members present: Peggy Carmichael, Misty Farabee, Ardell Fiedler, Patty Brooks, Brad Friez, Nancy Johnson, and Amy Pokela

Commission members absent: Mary Hurd and Brett Johnson

Staff present: Carol Garry

Guest(s) present:

Welcome Guests

Approval of Minutes

Farabee moved to approve the February 20, 2008, meeting minutes; Carmichael seconded. The meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Continuing Business

NOD Award Update – We received the judges' comments regarding our 2007 Accessible America application. Here is a brief summary of what needs improving: Item B: Promoting Accessibility – checked box B-4, but did not provide explanation paragraph, one judge wanted to know how the advisory boards are used and if the city has any disability initiatives; Item C: Communicating a Welcoming Attitude – checked C-5 but didn't provide backup paragraph, doesn't have any disability specific information, seems very focused on parking; Item D: Promoting Participation – would like more information on how many were served in the example on housing, not sure parks 'goes above and beyond'; Item F: Emergency Preparedness – weak compared to other applications, not enough implementation details, lot of 'plans to' not enough currently in practice, why are some shelters designated for pwd's – seems discriminatory – why can't they go where they want to and these shelters be required to be accessible; Item G: Inspiring Others – ADA Celebration 425 out of 172,412 attended, not unique or inspiring, many cities have celebrations, does this inspire replication; Item H: Additional information – 'would like to know more about Pavilion's attractions that have an interested PWD participatory aspect, need more active v. passive examples. We scored well in Promoting Employability, most liked the website and the additional information on the social events.

Emergency preparedness was the overall low scorer, so that should get our attention again this year. Garry will discuss issue with ADA Coordinator Munce to get guidance. Maybe the Red Cross would be more approachable.

Hotel Guide – The committee reviewed a few example surveys and put together 50 questions, 98% can be answered yes or no. They asked if there should be a n/a box or add an explanation line to explain their answer. The surveys will be available online to

the CVB's hotel membership. The committee didn't want the survey to be too technical or it may discourage participation. We will ask Munce or Ryan Green to review the technical aspects.

BLN Inclusion Expo Report – This year's Expo had 102 high school students from around the area participating in the breakout sessions (about 40 at each session) and enjoyed the free pizza afterwards. Pokela and Carmichael were at the City's booth. Others on the DAC were 'manning' booths as well – Friez, Fiedler, Brett Johnson, and Nancy Johnson. At the luncheon the Lt. Governor spoke and was well received. Some felt marketing for the event was weak.

ADA Celebration – Examples of the poster used at the BLN Expo were handed out. The design was approved to use on this year's printed materials. We discussed having a handout available for all the agencies to use whenever they are at similar events to help spread the word about the Celebration all year round instead of just prior to the event. We also discussed using the sandwich boards in front of business with the poster on it to draw attention to the event. The information would be general so it can be used year after year.

The Celebration's finance committee met to discuss fundraising activities. More details will be available at the March 20th meeting.

New Business

HRC Report

No report.

Public Comment

Pokela reported Jumpy Monkey Coffee would like to come to the next DAC meeting and will bring the coffee.

Nancy Johnson turned in a list of areas that aren't accessible that she received from one of her clients. Garry will give a copy to Munce who will get it to the person responsible to investigate/resolve.

Garry will not be at the April meeting; Fiedler will take notes and Pokela will run the meeting (April 16th)

Adjournment

Having no further business, **Brooks moved to adjourn, Carmichael seconded.** The meeting adjourned at 4:30p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2008, @ 3:00pm, Human Relations Conference Room, City Hall.

Minutes submitted by Carol Garry.