

Anne Arundel Commission on Disability Issues
Meeting Minutes
June 23rd, 2009

IN ATTENDANCE:

Fran Wright	Joanna Clarke
Gray Gentil	Donna Bower
Nancy Jenkins	Kate Rollason
Joanna Clark	Diane Detore
Iris Littig	Sandra Roberts
Michael Benelli	Lt. Col David Pressley (on behalf of Lt. Col. Emerson)
Jim Martin	Pam Jordan (ADA Coordinator)
Joan Heinicke	Susanne Boyle
Jeanne Elion	Terry Clay
Paul Lurz	Julia Schoenster (visitor)
Ginger Palmer	Jeff Balentine
Ruth Knox	Megan Risavi (visitor)
Angela Haney	Mary Ellen McMillin (visitor)
Rosemarie Church (visitor)	Gregory Mellon (visitor)
Gail Smith	Lori Markland (guest speaker)
Nancy Choice	Denise Schuler (guest speaker)
Richard Scordo	
Greg Africa	

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Alan Vandendriessche
Maryann Sabo
Wendy Scarborough
Roxanne Sporrer
Patty Algina

GUEST SPEAKER:

The speaker for the month of June is Lori Markland and Denise Barton from the Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MTAP).

- Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MTAP) – Lori and Denise informed the Commission on the services and loan programs available from MTAP. They also demonstrated and discussed various uses and benefits of some of the items offered.

INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Introductions were given. Minutes from the 5/26/09 meeting were approved with no additional changes☺.

ADA COORDINATOR REPORT:

Pam Jordan had several things to report to the Commission.

- The name of the Handy Cab program has been officially changed to the Taxi Voucher program, this request was from a Town Hall meeting sponsored by ARC, among others.
- Attended the Alliance's June Meeting this month with Ginger. This meeting was special because Secretary Cathy Raggio from the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) and her staff made a presentation which outlined the programs in each department. Then she set forth the goals for MDOD for fiscal year 2010.
- Working with Baltimore City to learn more about a Federal Grant for accessible taxi cabs. We have one cab company already interested.
- Participated in DOAD's Transportation Policy meeting - curb to curb - defining and communicating more clearly.
- Attended a meeting with Alan, Jeanne, Ginger and the County Executive. Following up on participating in Washington Area Metro Transportation Authority at this time. I have learned more about this, including the benefits of having accessible cabs as part of the system and creating a centerpiece of transportation in the State if the two systems could meet/overlap.
- Pam participated in several "Week in Review" segments this month with OBI in particular talking about the applications that are out for employer of the year and employer for people with disabilities awards. Pam also did a full segment with Vicki Callahan that will be airing later in the month.
- Pam attended the Transit Development meeting this month, at the State Department of Disabilities. As the ADA Coordinator, Pam will be building and reinforcing bridges with the Housing Authority, Economic Development and the Office of Planning and Zoning to insure that the Commission and the disability issues are considered during planning and design of the Odenton Project. Pam will be working to ensure accessibility and housing, particularly with project based vouchers.
- DOAD van drivers had a staff meeting and were reminded to remove their vehicle from in front of building once they are finished discharging passengers from the vans and off the handicap ramp.
- DOAD had a nutrition site opening and commissioners, Nancy Jenkins, Ruth Knox, and Maryann Sabo attended and worked the Commission table.

OLD BUSINESS:

Disability Awareness Day-

- Vicki Callahan who was nominated last month by the Commission has accepted the nomination. Vicki is pleased to be the honoree and will be present on October 24th. OBI's Bell Choir will be the first demonstration of the day.
- Letters have been sent out to vendors along with registration forms and employee award applications. All vendors must respond by August 18th and the tables are on a "first come first serve" basis (there is only enough space for 35 tables this year). This year the tables are all 6 foot tables with two chairs and are \$40 a table.

- Anne Arundel Community College has offered to print the posters, fliers, and card for DAD this year, and they are shooting towards having them done by next month.
- Providence Center, Opportunity Builders Incorporated, DORS, and United Cerebral Palsy have been contacted and they will each present an “award of the year”.

Alliance Survey-

- Ginger reported at the last Alliance meeting she attended, the Alliance asked each member to go back to their Commission and ask them for issues they would like to address in the upcoming year. Alliance members will report back to the Alliance, a vote will then be taken among the members to decide which issues will be addressed in the 2010.

NEW BUSINESS:

Transit Oriented Development (TOD)-

- Pam Jordan and Ginger Palmer attended a meeting hosted by the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Disabilities who explained how TOD would work in the designated area within the state. The hope is that the Commission will be working closely with the project as it develops.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bylaws/ Ad Hoc Committee:

Nancy Jenkins gave the committee report.

- Bylaws met earlier in the month and will have another meeting on June 24th to go through the old bylaws and recommendations, then work on drafting an updated version of the bylaws.
- Ad Hoc is drafting a card for people with hearing loss to carry to inform Police that they have hearing loss.
- Nancy Jenkins suggested to Pam Jordan ADA Coordinator, that Ad Hoc and some Commissioners go to a police training session on June 30th to make a presentation and/or participate in training. Nancy asked that people with all types of disabilities participate to have as broad a spectrum as possible.

Architecture and Accessibility:

Gray Gentil gave the committee report.

- The committee will suggest the next step on conference room accessibility in the Heritage Complex.
- Medical and office facilities accessibility parking issue is in progress.

Transportation:

Marsha Dryden reported there was nothing new to report from the transportation committee.

Public Relation/ Website:

Rich Scordo and Ruth Knox gave the report.

- The committee met a few weeks ago and has been handing out the Commission business cards to anyone that showed interest in the Commission and/or DAD.
- The commission's statement is a work in progress, in rough draft form and any input commissioners may have is welcomed.
- The committee has been working with ex-officio Terry Clay of Anne Arundel Community College to start a contest with the AACCC students to create a tagline and new logo for the Commission. Terry informed the commission that one of the visual arts department professors will pass the contest information on to the students when falls class start on August 24th. Terry suggested the Commission make the contest deadline in December, giving the students and the professor a semester to work on the contest.
- The committee is working on a rough draft of a new Commission brochure.

Membership:

Iris Litig gave the report.

- The Commission is full but the membership committee is still encouraging people to get involved and anyone can volunteer to help the Commission.
- Iris reminded everyone to encourage visitors to sign the sign in sheet so that we can keep in contact with them as well as informing them on upcoming events involving the Commission.
- Commissioners whose terms are about to expire should start writing their renewal letter to the County Executive. All letters should be address to the County Executive but the mailing envelopes should be address to Pam Jordan ADA Coordinator.

Legislation:

James (Jim) Martin gave the report.

- The committee met earlier in the day with the Visibility Committee to discuss waiver/exemption information they want to put in the "Access for All" document for the architectural features. A draft will be put together in the next week or so by Jim and Gray Gentil, then it will be viewed and voted on by the committee. A meeting will then be scheduled with the County agencies.

Housing:

Michael Benelli gave the report.

- The housing committee will be meeting after the July commission meeting.
- The committee would like to be apart of the Transit Oriented Development program.

Children/Education/Recreation:

Angela Haney gave the report.

- The committee is updating the survey which will cause the survey to be extended until the fall. The committee will also contact local key disability groups to participate in the survey as well.
- The committee is in the process of looking for autism societies to come to some of the Commission meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Michael Benelli's employer (MCIL) is moving to a new location off of 9th Street in Federal Hill.
- Nancy Jenkins gave out the wrong web address for major laws for people with hearing loss, last month. The correct web address is www.hearingloss.org
- Lisa Kornberg, the Director of the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing is the guest speaker for the July Commission meeting.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:00PM. Next meeting is July 28th, 2009.