

Minutes of Cape Fear Disability Commission

August 16, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Schultz, Vanessa Lacer, Jonathan Batts, Mary Janiczek, Chris Hawkins, Mitch Duncan, Katy Brockwell, Hayley Sink, David Todd, Steve Allman, Carolyn Cole, David Morrison, Ann Morrison, Ellis Pinder, Christina Wheeler (sign language interpreter), Jim Sewell (sign language interpreter)

CALL TO ORDER

David Schultz called the meeting to order at 10:33AM.

Each attendee introduced him/her self.

David Schultz made some general announcements. Anyone wishing to speak during the meeting must raise his/her hand and provide his/her name for the benefit of both the members and the sign language interpreters. Because monthly meetings became too burdensome for members, meeting will now be held quarterly. The Board of the CFDC will meet between the quarterly general meetings in order to prepare for them. For each future quarterly meeting, the Board will create a PowerPoint presentation outlining the agenda and topics for discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Todd requested that his name be added to the list of attendees at the May 17, 2017, meeting. The motion was made by Vanessa Lacer and was seconded by David Morrison. The Secretary will amend the minutes in accordance with the approved motion.

STRATEGIC PLANNING RECAP

On Friday, July 21, 2017, the CFDC Board met with Craig Harris, a strategic planning facilitator from UNCW, to begin the process of looking at the many aspects of the future of the CFDC. David Schultz recapped the results of the meeting including the following list of goals and objectives: leadership development, marketing/money & budget, public awareness/education/training, officers' responsibilities, membership on the CFDC, quantifiable results, video meetings, information packets, mission.

Vanessa Lacer and David Schultz explained each of these and said that it will be most productive if the members select 3-4 goals and focus on them. It was determined that the mission statement should be the starting point. David Todd agreed that this is the perfect time to revisit the mission statement. Ann Morrison stated that a mission statement should be short and easy to remember and, at the same time, global and broad. She suggested that the words "improve and" be omitted. That shortens the mission statement and makes it more positive. When asked if the mission statement was written only with individuals with physical disabilities in mind, David Morrison said yes. Mary Janiczek said that the CFDC should expand its goals and objectives to include those with intellectual/developmental disabilities. David Todd agrees that it should be all-inclusive. It was suggested that, once the CFDC has crafted a

mission statement that reflects its future, the mission statement should be presented to the Mayor and City Council for their input.

Action step: David Schultz made a motion that an ad hoc committee be formed to develop the mission statement. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Batts and passed by a vote of the members present. Vanessa Lacer will send out an email to members asking for volunteers to form the committee. By the November meeting, the committee will have options for the members to discuss and vote on.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

City Report—Jonathan Batts, City of Wilmington

River Walk has been completed all the way to the Holmes Bridge. Inland Greens Golf Course is complete. River Front Park has also been completed. All of these facilities are accessible. Work on Waterfront Park has begun and will be completed in 2019.

Chris Hawkins asked if there has been any progress on the sidewalk in front of the ARC offices on New Centre Drive. It has been three years since this was first brought to the attention of the city. At this point, sidewalks on both sides of New Centre Drive are inaccessible by people who use wheelchairs. To make the situation even more critical, the Disability Resource Center will be moving into the same building as the ARC in November. Jonathan Batts said that the maintenance of the sidewalks on New Centre Drive are the responsibility of NCDOT, not the City of Wilmington, and that he will contact Mike Koslovsky (NCDOT) for a status report, which he will present at the next CFDC meeting. David Schultz said that possibly a return visit to CFDC by (a woman from NCDOT?) could provide guidance on action steps to address the sidewalk issue.

Transportation Report—Vanessa Lacer, WAVE Transit

A five year plan is now in development and WAVE Transit wants community input. Visit the WAVE website (www.wavetransit.com) to do so. There is now a WAVE app.

Vanessa also announced that she has been invited to be on the Board of Directors of the Disability Resource Center (dRC). Anyone wishing to be on the dRC email list can go to the website (www.drc-cil.org) and sign up.

NEW BUSINESS

A question was received through the CFDC Facebook page regarding training for police and their interactions with people with disabilities. Hayley Sink said that there is training for police regarding assisting people with autism. David Schultz said that his office provides training in communicating with people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. David Morrison said that sworn officers in the Sheriff's Department receive training. In a related area, David Schultz said that his office has been urged by the New Hanover County Court system to have assistive listening equipment/devices at the courthouse.

OLD BUSINESS

Accessible Icon Project

Steve Allman reported that while the Federal government is in charge of the blue rectangular signs erected at handicap parking spaces, each state is responsible for the signs that are painted on the

pavement. The State of North Carolina supports the use of the new painted icon. The North Carolina Rehabilitation Association will be holding its convention in Wilmington in September and would like to paint the new icon on parking spaces of a business/organization here, as a community service project. Contact Steve at steven.allman@dhhs.nc.gov for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

See Attachments