

**CITY OF PITTSBURGH/ALLEGHENY COUNTY
TASK FORCE ON DISABILITIES**

January 27, 2003

MINUTES

Location: **First Floor Conference Room
200 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA**

Members Present: **John Tague, Chairperson, Paul O’Hanlon, Co-chair, Ruth Walter
Brenyo, Al Condeluci, Bill Chrisner, Liz Healey, Rich McGann, Jeff
Parker**

Members Absent: **Aurelia Carter, Linda Dickerson, Milton Henderson, Penny
Perlman, Kate Seelman**

Others Present: **Eileen Stewart, Chuck Keenan**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tague at 1:10 PM.

Introductions:

All members introduced themselves and briefly explained their occupations and interests.

Approval of Amended Minutes from December 23, 2002 Meeting:

Mr. Tague noted that the Minutes from last month’s meeting were included in the packet and asked if any members had any corrections to them. Mr. Keenan also noted that he had received no comments or revisions to the Minutes when he sent them out with the meeting reminder last week.

Mr. O’Hanlon moved that the Minutes from the December 23, 2002 Meeting BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. Mr. McGann seconded the motion. The motion to APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED WAS APPROVED unanimously.

Correspondence:

Mr. Keenan noted that the agenda packets included two letters. Mr. Keenan explained that the first letter was sent to members of Governor Ed Rendell’s Transition team and that it asked that they create an Office of Person’s with Disabilities in the Governor’s Office, authorize a Commission to study the array of services designed for people with disabilities at the state level, and solicit a list of qualified individuals to serve in the administration and on various boards. The second letter was sent to City of Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy requesting that he meet with interested members of the Task Force on the proposed Visitability Ordinance.

The members of the Task Force also discussed the design of the letterhead on these correspondences, with Mr. Tague noting that a definitive design has yet to be agreed upon by the entire group. All agreed that the overall design was acceptable, but that some minor changes

should be made. Most notably, Mr. Chrisner asked that his name be listed as W. D. Chrisner III and Mr. O'Hanlon asked that the addresses be removed from underneath the crests.

Ms. Stewart informed the members that she, Mr. Keenan, Director of City Planning Susan Golomb, and others met with Mayor Murphy to discuss aspects of the proposed Visitability Ordinance. Mr. Keenan explained the nature of the meeting and noted some of the concerns with the Ordinance presented by some of the people in attendance, including urban density needs, the need for high quality design, and the perceived fear that such an ordinance may drive developers away. Mr. O'Hanlon requested that Ms. Stewart again ask the Mayor to meet with him and other advocates who have been working on the Ordinance over the last several months. Ms. Stewart agreed to talk with the Mayor's scheduling secretary to try to convene a meeting.

Mr. Tague informed the members of the meeting that the Steelers scheduled with Ms. Brenyo's Design Committee on the proposed North Shore Amphitheater based on the letter that the Task Force sent last month. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 29, 2003 and will be held at the Steelers Offices.

Financial Report:

Mr. Parker handed out the January 2003 Fiscal Report, which detailed monies spent to date under the City-County Task Force for fiscal year 2002-03. Mr. Parker also informed the members that he only has four copies of the "Small Differences" video remaining and that he has not given many out lately. He wanted to know what members thought of having more videos made. He noted that he had talked to the company that originally made the video and that it would cost approximately \$200 to copy 50 videos and \$400 to copy 150 videos. Mr. Parker asked whether or not members wanted to order more videos and, if so, how many and from which budget to pay for them. A general consensus developed that more videos should be ordered.

After some discussion, Ms. Healey moved that MR. PARKER PURCHASE 150 SMALL DIFFERENCES VIDEOS WITH FUNDING FROM THE OPERATING BUDGET. Ms. Brenyo seconded the motion. A brief discussion followed, with Mr. Condeluci asking if adequate funding remained to cover costs associated with the Visitability Ordinance. Mr. Parker felt that there was sufficient funding remaining in the discretionary items and with Disability Agenda to allow the Task Force to fund necessary events. After the discussion, the motion to ask MR. PARKER TO PURCHASE 150 SMALL DIFFERENCES VIDEOS FROM THE OPERATING BUDGET PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Parker reported that he had looked into investing the monies from the previous sale of the "Small Differences" videos (approximately \$16,000) at various banks throughout the region. He noted that current yields on money market accounts and certificates of deposit are less than two percent. He also noted that he will soon be contacting Tony Buba about the possibility of making a second video. Mr. Condeluci reported that the previous production costs for the "Small Differences" video (done in 1995) were about \$1000 per minute. Ms. Healey noted that the video would probably need to be about fifteen minutes based on previous costs and resources available from the sale of the last video, as well as teachers' and others' desire to keep the video at that length. Mr. Condeluci said that the Task Force might be able to access additional money from next year's operating budget or monies remaining from this year in order to produce a fifteen-minute video. Mr. Tague asked members what they thought of the Task Force trying to secure additional funding from private sources for the production of the video. Ms. Healey asked that the Task Force wait until it has a clear strategic plan before exploring this option.

Sub-Committees Report (Design):

Ms. Brenyo noted that she did not have anything new to report this month. Mr. Keenan reminded the Task Force members of the upcoming meeting with the Steelers concerning the North Shore Amphitheater.

Sub-Committees Report (Executive):

Mr. Tague reported that the Executive Committee had not met this month, but that he was hoping to schedule a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Strategic Plan sometime in February. Ms. Healey asked Mr. Keenan to clarify the various Subcommittees and their members. He noted that there are currently two subcommittees, the Design Committee chaired by Ms. Brenyo and the Executive Committee chaired by Mr. Tague and made up of the Task Force officers. The By-laws Committee, formerly chaired by Ms. Carter, has completed its work and is thus no longer meeting. Mr. Tague reported that the Executive Committee has also created two Ad Hoc Committees, one working on the Strategic Plan with Mr. Tague, Ms. Healey, and Dr. Seelman as members, and a second working on the feasibility of a second "Small Differences" video with Mr. Parker, Mr. Condeluci, and Ms. Healey as members.

Disability Agenda Report:

Mr. Tague noted that no members of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services were present for the meeting, but that he did have a few updates to give. First, Mr. Tague informed the members of an upcoming meeting of the Supportive Services Committee, chaired by Susan Davis, on January 30, 2003 where they will review their goals for the upcoming year.

Mr. O'Hanlon informed members of the availability of additional funds from Disability Agenda originally earmarked for Employer Breakfasts that can now be used for the Visitability Conference scheduled for February 10, 2003.

Visitability Update:

Mr. O'Hanlon gave a brief summary of a series of events scheduled for February 10, 2003 at the Sheraton Inn Station Square, each of which are designed to elicit support and input on the ordinance. Among the events planned is a seminar for architects on visitability hosted by Dr. Ed Steinfield of the University of Buffalo and Eleanor Smith of Concrete Change to be held from 8:30 to 10:30 A.M. The second seminar for the day is designed for developers, community organizations, government officials, contractors, and realtors and will involve teams working on real-life examples of housing developments in Pittsburgh and how they could be designed to comply with the proposed Ordinance. This workshop will run from 11:00 to 3:15 and will include a working lunch. A third event, still in the planning stages, may be a "Town Meeting" with Eleanor Smith of Concrete Change and other local community organizers working on possible strategies to get the Ordinance signed into law. This event will likely run concurrently with the developer workshop. A final event for the day will be an informal evening reception from 3:30 to 5:30 with Eleanor Smith to wrap up the day and discuss next steps.

Mr. Condeluci explained the need for a community-organizing event as part of the day's activities. He noted that such an event would allow advocates for the Ordinance to talk about potential strategies for organizing a group to work on its passage. Mr. Chrisner asked that Brenda Dare be included in this group. Mr. O'Hanlon explained that the overall theme of the day will be looking at the future of Pittsburgh and that the theme of this particular organizing event will be

“your part of the future.” He plans to include a broad range of constituents active and involved in past civil rights issues and to move the agenda from a general organizing and civil rights tract to one focussed in the end at the passage of the Ordinance. Ms. Healey noted that it was imperative that people work to get the word out about the day’s activities given the importance of the issue.

Ms. Healey moved that THE DISABILITY AGENDA HOUSING COMMITTEE AND THE VISITABILITY COMMITTEES ORGANIZED BY MR. O’HANLON HAVE FINAL DECISION MAKING POWERS OVER THE DAYS EVENTS AND THAT THEY BE ALLOWED TO SPEND UP TO \$4000 ON THE ACTIVITIES OF 2/10/03. Mr. Chrisner seconded the motion. The motion WAS APPROVED unanimously.

ADA Coordinator Update:

Mr. Keenan reported on the meeting that he had with staff at the Mayor’s Office concerning the proposed Visitability Ordinance. He noted that the administration had concerns about the effects that the Ordinance may have on overall development within the City and on potential design issues.

Mr. Keenan also reported on his activities with the Department of Parks and Recreation, including talks he has had with them on their Summer Booklet and the culmination of facility reviews. Mr. Keenan hoped to have the reviews completed within a few months and will issue a report on his findings. He asked the Task Force members for their guidance in developing a plan to bring facilities, activities, services, and programs into full compliance with the ADA.

Open Discussion:

Mr. Tague asked that the next meeting be rescheduled to Monday, February 24, 2003 at 1:00 PM. All agreed to the meeting change. Since the meetings will now be held in the early afternoon, Mr. Tague asked that Mr. Keenan provide soft drinks and pizza for the next meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15.

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING:	DATE:	February 24, 2003
	TIME:	1:00 P.M.
	LOCATION:	First Floor Conference Room 200 Ross Street Pittsburgh, PA 15219

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

March 17, 2003
April 21, 2003
May 19, 2003
June 16, 2003