

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

June 21, 2010

MINUTES

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

Members Present: Katherine D. Seelman, Co-chairperson, Janet Evans, Sarah Goldstein, Rich McGann, James C. Noschese, John Tague

Members Absent: Aurelia Carter, Linda Dickerson, Liz Healey, Milton Henderson, Jeff Parker, Paul O'Hanlon

Others Present: Mary Curet, Elaine Dudley, Gerhard Egri, Dianne Gallagher, Larry D. Hockenberry, Charles Morrison, Matthew Pavlosky, Asia Pruden, Tamara Siegert, Mary Van Shura

The meeting was called to order at 1:00

INTRODUCTIONS

ACTION ITEM

Review & approval of May's minutes

Mr. Noschese motions to approve. Ms. Evans seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Review & approval of financial report

Mr. Tague: Budget cut 28%. 1) no August 17, 2009 meeting. Use of CART, cost 400\$ per meeting. Will accommodate whoever needs it. Judy Baricella portion of HADS funds will give 500 dollars towards interpreter costs. Leaves balance of around 150 dollars. June meeting is covered. No state budget which is where the funds come from. Not sure where we stand for the August meeting. Not sure if we want to have a retreat to discuss mission, number of meetings. Can't have committee meetings without the possibility of interpreting services. 2-3 years ago had a retreat, effective, but we would need to find money to conduct a retreat. How we are viewed by Dept of Human Services. We are not a program. Required to report activities of what we have done during the year. Maybe we give a year-end report to give to County and Mayor. Where does funding come from for next year? The agreement for the task force is City to staff and County to pay for it. There are issues to resolve as a Task Force. Don't want people to think that they can't come to the Task Force meeting because we can't accommodate them.

Dr. Seelman: The cost of providing accessibility doesn't equal the available income. There must be some sort of discussion about that.

Tague: Who needs to be involved in that committee? Good relationship with County though.

Meritzer: There is 25,000 in the City budget for interpreting and captioning which we are encumbering. It can be a viable source for Task Force. However, we did not have a contract with CART and going after a contract now

Van Shura: It would be helpful when developing the budget for the year, that the County knows in advance. Last month, it gave me a few days to resolve issue. Develop budget, challenges to that, work with County in what additional funding you will need to honor that budget.

Seelman: We are thankful for relationship with County and City. Will you be the intermediary?

Van Shura: Judy Baricella has always been the contact, but will be happy to help out.

McGann: Do we have someone from the mayor's office to work with on cost to report to? Financial report

Seelman: Funds traditionally come from County. Mary Esther has responded to that.

Van Shura: Send it to Department of Human Services, you can CC me.

Tague: The average cost of each meeting is 1100. The issue is to determine starting point. We have talk of reducing number of meetings. There has been discussion in the past about not having an August meeting.

Evans: What about the annual meeting?

Tague: We need to take in account all the extra meetings like the committee meetings.

Noschese: 12 meetings is fine. We should think about additional committee meetings. Like convention center or airport issues. We need to add some of those costs to the budget.

Seelman: I agree with that as does everyone. Barebones is 12 meetings a year, projected budget for additional costs. John will have a report for the next meeting a projected budget for 2010-2011.

Projected meetings and cost of each meeting assuming we need accommodations as a supplement.

Transportation Improvement Plan TIP

Matt Pavlosky SWPC

Role is new. An outreach coordinator. 10 counties. Different interest groups to plan transportation. Hasn't done a good job of outreach in the past.

What do you want and need?

We put together the Transportation Improvement Program – grocery list of needs throughout all communities that we serve. Make sure we are programming properly what you need to advance. More so than ever, we are broke--out of money. Current process is to maintain infrastructure and programming. Pittsburgh is the 21st largest city in the country.

SWP Commission is a metropolitan planning organization that directs transportation initiatives. Helps to bring together plans and project. Board comprised of commissioners, politicians, county executive, and mayors, to work with PennDOT, Port Authority, and planners. Made up of SWP Corp - economic development – lending, finance Commission – 3 pennDot 10 transit agencies. Try to bring them together to give them a voice. Pulling together their TIP. Thursday, June 24, 2010 6:00 Regional Enterprise Tower is the next meeting to review projects. Review Allegheny County list and City of Pittsburgh list. Voice any projects to support or not support. Want to hear you say don't forget about this. Review requests – answer online, or by PennDot, PAT, take data and move it forward in planning process.

Two other functions for TIP: Air Quality Conformity Determination – do not provide any projects that do not overpollute.

Transportation benefits and burdens: does not benefit or burden any neighborhood, group, ethnicities, etc

TIP – first step of long-range plan. First 2 years of 4 year plan. Can be updated to be flexible to accommodate new projects.

Long-range program is a 30 year program – items like the Mag-lev or Monfayette Expressway.

Fiscal constraint – can't program project until it can be placed on TIP with funding in place.

Current TIP will become effective October 1, 2010. Comments during the open period for current TIP will expire July 14, 2010 Tuesday. Give any comments until July 13.

Timeline: Dec 31 – SPC preliminary draft to PennDOT office. January 30 – PennDOT prelim. Response. May/June – Draft TIP, Air quality and Enviro Justice report. Now outreach. July 26 – projects before board and will Vote.

Air quality determination – maintenance projects because of fewer dollars. No more polluting than was already in place. Haven't added anything to that footprint.

Assessment of benefits/burdens – replacing or repairing what is out there – haven't changed that system this time.

Long-range plan – 2040 long range plan – SPC has won awards in the past for its outreach for the community. In the past have done a good job. We need your input. To do a better job We need you. John Tague has been instrumental in the Public Participation Panel – give input on long-range plan. What do we need to see in next 2 years, next 30 years? I'm always here – I'll let you know what you can involve yourself with.

Funding from federal gas tax. Fuel increases meant that people stopped driving – lost income. Need now a new way to fund transportation that is not fossil fuels. Do not agree with raising sales tax b/c it affects those who need transportation the most.

Stimulus program – PA effective about programming those dollars. Most successful large state. 212 million dollars – advance 7 mo of projects. Gift money. Can't expect those dollars anytime soon. HIRE – second level of stimulus. Project to public – did not receive money. Also lost act 44 money. Looking for other funding sources.

Infrastructure and Maintenance – Bridge condition continue to deteriorate – avg age is 50 years old. Construction costs are up 80% between 2003-2008. stone and concrete have gone up 180 percent since 2003. consistent tax base of fuel dollars is strained.

2009-2012 TIP 2.8 billion statewide. Current TIP at 2.1 billion.

7,000 miles of state owned roads in bad condition

numbers available in report

Transit – 400 million rides

Funding source same for past 17 years.

Options out there – brief not my place to discuss – reauthorization of government gas tax.

Working on extension of that law. If they do not reauthorize that, SPC will stop,

PennDOT will stop. I expect that we will extend that. That is not enough to currently sustain. Al Beeler – Transp Sec – transportation fuel tax.

Each penny of state transportation tax – easiest way to make money

47 cent gas tax. 3.5 cent gas tax was voted down

Tolling – reason 75%-80% of that tax must go back to that road.

Gateway tolls – roads that pass through neighboring states – pay fee

Would start make goods and services from other states more expensive

1.3 billion dollars to maintain current system.

By fixing things now, proper maintenance is more cost-effective.

Available to you I will be at as many meetings as I can attend.

Noschese: Disability community and deaf don't care about budgets. Permanent bus schedules. Some had to move, lost jobs because of schedule changing. Clean that up now so that they know it will be the same for next 30-40 years.

Pavlosky: need to educate own politicians. Heard state rep said that he didn't care about transit, only building bridges. If our own politicians don't understand. It needs to start with us as planners.

Deaf community should come to meetings, call me in advance so I can have interpreters there. It has a great impact when people come out and speak. We aren't tested as an organization enough. Thursday, June 24 @ 6pm

425 Sixth Avenue, 23rd floor 2300

Tague: draft tip on SPC website. List of City projects and County ones. PAT 50 million dollar short fall could be 30% service reduction and 500 people laid off. Steve Bland said now cut into muscle of system. Working hard to maintain ACCESS system.

McGann: don't know what will happen in future. Already being affected.

Pavlosky: other solution like fuel efficient buses that cost 300 thou instead of 150 thou for diesel. Hard to explain sticker shock initially but makes sense in the long term.

Seelman: Is the presentation electronic?

Pavlosky: I will send it to Richard.

Gerhart: Emergency preparedness evacuation plan for those with disabilities. Not even with 911 there is no system to evacuate them from any particular instance.

Larry: 20-30 years ago in Monroeville Mall, the annex, the bus parked and go around mall. To get to Macys you had to walk from annex. Door there that is wheelchair accessible but dangerous to get around. Didn't have access to that area.

Pavlosky: I can't answer Emergency preparedness but will look at it.
Can give report at next meeting.

Gehrhart: Port Authority has certain stations are main hub. Even though main hub or end point of service yet took away 2 other buses that went into that hub. Services in Carnegie to airport, Oakland taken away. Park and Ride area that handles all transportation. Not enough.

Pavlosky: understands completely. Let Matt know as soon as possible for interpreting and captioning services.

Discussion- Mary Curet

Mary joins the table.

Seelman: Susan Schaeffer has left UPMC as the Director for the Disability Resource Center but we are fortunate to have Mary Curet take over.

Curet: Susan and I worked together on many things. Honored to follow in her footsteps. She is doing well at the University of Maryland. Began 2 weeks ago. Has been at UPMC for 13 years. HR for 25 years. Masters at University of Pittsburgh – was in one of Kate's classes. UPMC center of inclusion. Make sure that inclusion is at core of what we do every day. Passion for people with disabilities were included in mission. Worked with Tague on web inclusion committee. Worked on several boards. Nominated for health policy board by Rendell. When appointed to board, will make sure that people with disabilities are included in convos. Worked in human resources. Targeted recruitment. Hired someone from deaf community. Project Search – graduated class of 8 students who got HS diploma. 4 positions at Mercy for students. Also looking at Presby. System to reduce barriers for employment. Don'tMissability. Here to make sure we are looking at social model not medical model. Here to help. Will have business cards by next meeting.

Tague: Health Policy Board for Commonwealth

McGann: Very important to improve internet access for us. Waiting for information, things to be posted. Sometimes there are no interpreters available for employees.

Curet: What types of postings?

McGann: yes but also for example, interpreting situations, Deaf and HoH who work there, sometimes none are provided. One deaf person was fired because of miscommunication. Work with staff and those employed to work with our community.

Curet: There are issues on both the employee side and the patient side. Keep pounding message home that staff are aware of rights of ADA and ADAAA

Seelman: will you develop community outreach? Meetings?

Curet: not come up with any specific plan. Worked with 150 different organization in SWPA area. Sure we will do it. Don't have anything specific in mind.

Sarah: system-wide employment. Does that include behavioral health?

Curet: Yes, all-inclusive. Do have work to do in all areas. No longer focuses on employment. Making sure that healthcare is accessible and also to those with behavioral health. Richard – let me know if someone does not receive services.

Chris: Few deaf workers at UPMC maybe 20 in different dept. maintenance, electricity. Call those people together and ask them how they are doing – are you happy, they tend to be very passive at work and they do not speak up and you say hello and who you are they would have some suggestions.

Curet: Could work with focus group. If you could help us identify those individuals, the new person will handle those requests.

Kate: That new person can come to the meeting to introduce themselves to the Task Force.

Larry: Do you know about cochlear implants? If the person is homeless and cant walk into emergency room because it is not compatible.

Staff Reports

AccessibilityPGH – Dan Stiker – 5 minute educational piece on what City is doing for people with Disabilities. First taping will be in August discussing the Hospital Complainace guide with Dr. Seelman as the guest. Rcihard Meritzer will host.

Outdoor Dining –Justin Lamorella-Currently working on addressing the proble,s with outdoor dining, going around making site visits to make sure permits are used and clear paths of travel.

Downtown Parking – Mark Heckmann – Downtown residence and parking survey. More parking in downtown area. Make more accessible. Walking every street to identify residences. Is parking available and accessible entrances. 17 sites where both entrance and relevant parking can be accomodate. Half of downtown to walk and document.

Kate: will get a report?

Yes to get a report.

Web page – Giuseppe – entire website is being revamped. Making sure everything is working. Making sure all information is online.

Seelman: Spiro at blindness center might be good at interfacing.

McGann: understand about pdf. Some programs that have attachments we cant open. Like Jpg and pdf. Some technology glitches that need to be worked at.

Janet: welcome all interns and Mary because now I can refer people to Mary.

Meetings Scheduled

Construction meetings from Market Sq. Inspections of City facilities.

Wellness Expo 2010 at CCAC North.

Active Allegheny – sidewalk project. A lot of gaps in sidewalks in the City sidewalks.

ADA Strategic Planning meeting.

Market square punch list walk through. Making sure accessibility is met.

Kate: invite someone from there to our meeting?

Richard: in September we can have them talk.

McGann: would you like me to participate in inspection?

Richard: will check.

Vox Pop

Tamara Siegert: Rep of Miracle League of SWPA, baseball league to ensure that anyone who has wanted to play can do so. Able to play in an actual game. Added an adult game. Individuals with disabilities help others with disabilities. Assists others in whatever way they need. Made nice community. Let people know that we have room for adult players.

The youth teams are full. Need for more volunteers, contact me at 412-253-1596. Field in Cranberry at Graham Park. Miracle League looking to put one in South Hills in a few years. Will send URL to Meritzer. If you are interested in playing or assisting contact me.

Tague: July 26. 20th anniversary of passage of ADA. Event at Station Square. 1) workshops in afternoon. In Bessemer square celebration for a few hours.

Janet: Market Square visited twice or thrice. Looked at it from all angles to assess for accessibility. The cobblestones, there is mortar set in deeper but it is best to use sidewalks. The curb ramp is a little bumpy for dogs and canes, be careful. The only problem I have is getting into Oyster House. The doorways are a little narrow. Need 2 people to help you if you use a wheelchair. Brought this to Richard's attention. Pretty accessible. Tables are accessible to everyone. Checked out everything from Zoning board. People with disabilities get to know owners of restaurants – they are willing to work with you.

McGann motions to adjourn meeting
Janet seconds.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55