

**Task Force Meeting
April 20, 2009**

Members Present: Paul O'Hanlon, Chairperson, Katherine D. Seelman, Janet Evans, James C. Noschese, Jeff Parker, John Tague

Members Absent: Linda Dickerson, Aurelia Carter, Sarah Goldstein, Liz Healey, Milton Henderson, Rich McGann

Others Present: Lucy Rooth, Danielle Kilchenstein, Patrick Mangus, Juan William, Victoria Campbell, Angelo Decario, Chuck Keenan, Tamara Siegert, Carol Horcroft, Shari Mamas, Charles Morrison, Lynda Marnoni, Matt Pavlosky, Megan Eighmey, Zach Rouse, Michael Pryor, Glenn Myers, Marcus Pryor, Alex Cherpak, James Harach, Peter Hilton, and Linda Langer

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm

Introductions

Financial Report speaks for itself. Interpreter services in March. Janet moved, Ruth seconded. Passed unanimously. What about next year, UCP is fiscal agent. Has sent information including questions but no budgeting information. One of the questions is would there be additional money since all money goes toward accessibility.

Jeff - County supplies a form each year to request additional funding. This year it is 15 questions. Provides no funding information. Can ask for a meeting after the form is in.

Chris- I would really like to make sure we have money for interpreters set aside for things like the Airport meeting.

John - Get money for that but not extra

Jeff - Always put money first for interpreters

Kate - Meetings other than task force meetings, if it is ours we should pay for it.

RM - my projects

Kate - Good strategy

Paul - informative, no action necessary right now

Aviary - Pat Marcus Executive Director of the National Aviary

Paul - Discuss about Aviary and new area, heard something of concern not enough information. Some of my staff looked around and felt it was accessible

Pat - City owned in 1992, taken over by a non - profit group. Since then some modest additions. Fundraising to improve facility. Adding Penguin Point. Combination indoor/outdoor exhibit. Penguins live outdoors. Visitors can visit either inside or outside. Original design had kid crawl, designed for little children. No standard height for children. Wheel chair- created 2 view tubes of different heights, 2 other viewing areas are accessible. Wednesday breaking ground to the doors.

Chris - Really enjoyed Aviary. If they have a number for captioning .

Pat - Need to look at that, upgrading signage. Seems to be a lot of technology out there.

Chris - Make sure you have someone deaf involved in that.

Kate - Technology is moving faster than us. Check with National Smithsonian, cut state of the art and get foundations involved.

Pat - Funding is always the issue

Kate - No little about technology on information and communication. Seats are removable. That is a great thing. Is it going to be affordable.

Pat - No price out yet. Probably group rate. Maybe add on or part of rate.

McCann - If something was going to be last minute.

Pat - Do not have interpreters to sign

McCann - Can blind patron touch the bird.

Pat - No, birds are skittish

McCann - Could there be a model of bird

Chris - If you are blind and deaf you learn through your hands.

pat - Usually they bring their own. They have hired interpreters

Concern with tunnels is that kids don't want to leave tunnels, if I can't get my kid out who will get them out?

Pat - Staff around who can do that. Learn on the job. Is there a standard, Second tunnel 4'3' height is possible for wheelchair to get in.

Paul - If I could not get in, a staff person would

Pat - Yes, need to do ground control

Kate - Is there a way to report back

Pat - Will come back anytime

Kate - He has been to the school many times.

Pat - Wants to include everyone.

Jenn - Is there a way to get feed back People can feed back on website or talk to staff.
Takes a lot of staff to run and clean the facility.

RM - Interpreter section

Pat - Would like to get a group together to work on this. How do we tap into expertise.
How can the dollars be affordable and flexible.

McCann - What is the web address?

Pat - Aviary.org. Have links to other organizations.

paul - Get a good advisor from deaf community

Victoria - Is there any way to get students involved.

Pat - Open to it

John will accept

Kate - Email sent out yesterday, Tom Hawkins has accepted the next Thornburgh lecture
Oct 26th at Pitt Law School, has been responsible for most major disability legislation
through congress.

McCann - Tom has a deaf brother

Kate - Status of Joe Wissermann

Hohn - mayor debate tonight, can email questions

Lucy Rooth - Working on initiations has support including: Pitt Professor saying
wouldn't it be nice if we are known as most accessible city. Has hit several bumps. Could
do presentation.

Kate - Appreciates work. These two items have been on agenda forever.

Paul - Council member Byers in June meeting

Janet - Would like to see Mayor at May's meeting

Paul- ambitious to get him to, day before on election

John - Can't we have a meeting with the mayor

Kate - could decide what we want

Paul - Take this under advisement

Kate - Representative from county

Chris - write letter of support for housing for deaf, deaf blind and hard of hearing for low income. Handed out copy.

Paul- Action housing is submitting a application to HUD.

John - Action housing board member. I can follow up

Janet moved to send letter. McCann seconded, Pass unanimously. Resident council, county supports but they don't provide interpreters.

McCann - The parents need to draw line, Act 57

Paul - issue is what the housing authority does to support council. Ask housing authority, can raise in a disability community. Also raise the question with HUD

Janet - Will talk to resident self sufficiency person

Kate - People with communications issues have not provided bus. It is a legal question

Janet - As of July 1st everyone will be in E-Purse. How do we know if it is accurate

Holly - four ticket ride is 4.25. Will withdraw the amount automatically.

Kate moved, Janet seconded meeting adjourned 2:45

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