

**City of Pittsburgh/Allegheny County**  
**Task Force on Disability**  
**Monday April 15, 2013**  
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Task Force Members in Attendance:** Paul O’Hanlan, James C. Nochese, John Tague, Richard McGann, Janet Evans, Joe Wasserman, Sarah Goldstein, Dr. Katherine Seelman

**Task Force Members Absent:** Linda Dickerson, Jeff Parker, Aurelia Carter-Scott, Milton Henderson, Liz Healy

**Also in Attendance:** Lester Bennett, Marty Stahl, Shirley Ebriola, Mary Durante, Thelma Winslow, Charles Morrison, Randy Whitehair, Paul Mante, Tom Stangreeke, Elliot, Elizabeth Daniels-Totten, Ali Abdullah, Steve Fowler, Sara Fernandez, Richard Meritzer,

**1. Approval of January 2013 Taskforce Minute**

A motion to approve the January meeting minutes with correction was seconded and approved unanimously.

**2. Financial Report:**

**John Tague**

There are no meetings scheduled for August, February or December, this means that there are nine meetings total with remaining months being May, June, and July. Current balance of funds is \$5,601.98. A number of months do not utilize CART, resulting in leftover funds. The July 2012 meeting was extended by one hour and the taskforce may want to allow this extra time in July 2013 for community input. Projections for CART requests for the remaining meetings will be known in May.

A motion to approve the financial report was seconded and passed unanimously.

**3. Announcement:**

**Katherine Seelman**

- Dr. Seelman announced disability cultural events for the fall of 2013 including:
- a. Reel Abilities Film Festival: Oct 26-29
  - b. Disability Studies Conference Oct 31-Nov 1
  - c. Thornburg Lecture Nov 13 with Joyce Bender

**4. Presentation: Helping Hands**

**Thelma Winslow**

Ms. Winslow is in the early stages of planning a project called Helping Hands—a project to assist in granting the wishes of persons with disabilities between the ages of 19 and 67. This project is designed to fill the gap between the well-known “Make-a-Wish” (for children aged 1 to 18) and the “Twilight Wish” project (for people aged 68 and older). Ms. Winslow is currently the only staffer and is in

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the preliminary stages of recruiting volunteers and assistance from members of the disability community for fundraising initiatives.

All those interested should contact Thelma Winslow via e-mail [Help\\_Hand@rocketmail.com](mailto:Help_Hand@rocketmail.com) or phone 412-704-7278.

**5. Discussion: Pittsburgh Code Review**

**Sara Fernandez**

The Pittsburgh City Code does not currently reflect the language and regulation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Sara Fernandez, a dual-masters student in law and social work at the University of Pittsburgh, has been reviewing the City Code line-by-line to address these issues and discrepancies. Ms. Fernandez will begin full-time during the Summer internship term. Each month, a separate section will be presented for Task Force review and recommendation. The first section of review is the zoning code. Example: the zoning board of adjustment cannot enforce certain ADA requirements because the City Code does not provide language to do so.

Chris Noschese recommended that language centered on auditory requirements be taken into consideration when reviewing the code—particularly the integration of warning lights for Emergency vehicles crossing through intersection that would alert deaf drivers to emergency vehicle right-of-way. .

Paul O’Hanlan stressed the importance of sidewalk maintenance and safety issues within the City Code. Janet Evans agreed, citing the state of downtown sidewalks and the responsibility and enforcement of sidewalk safety among businesses

Dr. Seelman recommended identifying key problem areas and project descriptions that would allow the code review project to continue beyond summer 2013.

**6. Staff Reports**

**a. Visit-ability Marketing Committee**

**Shelby Weber**

Ms. Weber shared updated resources and information regarding the application processes for the visit-ability tax credit for Businesses that wish to make their businesses more accessible. These cards should be finalized and printed during the summer internship term.

**b. Training Materials on Epilepsy and Seizure Management:**

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**Steve Fowler**

Mr. Fowler provided an update on the acquisition and review of epilepsy and seizure management training materials for first responders in the City of Pittsburgh. Mr. Fowler, with the assistance of Lt. Jennifer Ford, has made contact within all three branches of first-responders: police, fire, and EMS and discovered that all three branches have their own materials. "Encountering Special Needs" a section within the required first year training materials for police cadets since 1999, cites the Epilepsy Foundation in its materials. To date there has not been any receipt of materials for review.

**7. Vox Pop:**

- a. **On Wednesday April 17, the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court will hear arguments on a lawsuit filed by community law advocates on behalf of seven statewide organizations before a panel of seven judges. The case will argue the constitutionality of Act 22.**

***Meeting Adjourned***