

City of Pittsburgh / Allegheny County

Task Force on Disabilities

Monday, April, 18, 2016

Meeting Minutes

**Task Force Members in Attendance**

Aurelia Carter, Janet Evans, Paul O' Hanlon, Milton Henderson, Richard McGann, James C. Noschese, Jeff Parker, Katherine Seelman, John Tague, Karen Warman, Joe Wassermann

**Task Force Members Absent**

Sarah Goldstein, Gabriel McMoreland

**Also in Attendance**

Ali Abdullah, Shirley Abriolla, Judy Barricella, Jessica Burkman, Tina Calabro, Sheron D. Clark, Al Condeluci, Tyler Curtin, Joy Dore, Kori Eckstrom, Joe Elliot, Steve Evhard, Andrew Favini, Tsa Yan Fong, Dustin Gibson, Alisha Grishman, Michael Hansom, Angela Habdavny, Georganne Lingefeloter, Kim Mackey, Jen Marcheck, Richard Meritzer, Jen Motetchell, Brett Morgan, Jina O'Neill, Ryan Schaitkin, Dawn Smidga, Robin Smith, Jordan Stanga, Mary Esther Van Shura, Ray Wiethorn, Rachel Kallem Whitman, Angela Jefferson, Travonne Henderson, Jordan Stanga

**Welcome and Introduction**

The program started around 1:11 pm and began with the introduction of the Task Force members and individuals in the audience.

**Review and Approval of Treasurer's Report and Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to pass the minutes with the correction of Aurelia Carter's name. Motion passed.

Review and approval of the treasurer's report was made by John Tague. The captioning in past April estimated the cost of the last meetings. The interpretive services estimated the cost of \$500.00 a month but it varies a little bit. The whole estimated in the year is a total of \$3316.59 which will be available for other projects and other items. Mr. Tague also mentioned that the city also has money available for it. The treasurer's report was approved at the meeting by the Task Force.

**SWPPA**

Former Task Force member and director of CLASS Al Condeluci made an introduction of the SWPPA program where he is a member at now. The SWPPA program which stands for The South Western Pennsylvania Partnership on Aging (SWPPA) is a program that was founded in the year of 1991 as a coalition of advocate and older citizens who are concerned and interested

for elder citizens to go in an active role for the community. He talks about how this program helps with aging issues. He mentioned that the program wants to help with disability issues. SWPPA has looked at world health organization with issues around the world to get a healthier active life. The program identified eight domains that are critical to any community being more inclusive and welcoming of all people. SWPPA looked at it and want to promote in the Allegheny Area in Pittsburgh, PA. They were able to meet with the mayor and county executive of Allegheny County to give a look at the eight domains.

He also mentioned that the SWPPA program has joined up with the AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) which is a huge advocacy group on elderly people's issues. SWPPA and AARP worked together to help with a proposal in the Hillman Foundations and were able to receive a grant to get age friendly community initiative in the Allegheny county area.

Mr. Condeluci introduces a member of the SWPPA program Jen Marchek at the task force meeting. She explained more about the world health organization and how it was able to help with other cities. She also stated that Pittsburgh and the Allegheny county area is one the cities that are getting help. She explained each of the eight domains, how they are used in the community and how they can help people. She also talked about a program called Age Your Way which addresses on the elderly and the community. They ask questions on the community and the elderly on staying there. She also talks about providing surveys on those who can't make it to meetings and are homebound.

Mr. Condeluci he gives a breakdown on how this project is going to be used and how it will be able to help provide a better community and he also answered questions

Mr. McGann explains on how the SWPPA, the world health organization and the eight domains project opportunity will work and explained that how this will help with the community.

### **Jordan's Presentation**

Mr. Meritzer introduces his intern Jordan Stanga on her presentation. The three projects she mentioned was a facility survey, business directory and an interpreter project. She talks about her project on facility surveys where she mentioned there are about 200 facilities but she got about 60 done so far. These facilities needed to be surveyed for accessibility purposes. The survey focuses on facilities that need to have accessibility for people who are in wheelchairs. It is the main game plan to get these facilities accessible for people who are in wheelchairs that need to get around in places. They need to have parking, ramps and elevators for everyone.

She talked about her other project which is the business directory. On that project she was able to get other interns to go to different neighborhood places and business places to see if there is any steps, ramps or if it was accessible for people. She mentioned that her last project was from a previous intern that focuses on rugs and how they not placed correctly in class. She mentioned that the rugs were a safety hazard because it wasn't embedded to the floor; they were throw rugs and would cause people to trip from them. She also conducted a facility survey which shows that there accidents from the carpets and the rugs. The people that were used in the survey were at the

age of 65. From the results it shown that there was percentage of 54.2 of accidents with carpets and a 45.8 percent from rugs.

Ms. Stanga also noted that there is an event on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm- 3pm at the Sheridan senior center. The event focuses on senior citizen centers to see if the rugs are built safe and to see if there are any danger hazards on these rugs which will cause someone to fall.

### **Follow Up on the One Step Program**

Mr. Parker discussed on last month's meeting the introduction of the One Step Program. The One Step program is a project that Richard Meritzer was working on. The idea of it is to get ramps at business places in Oakland and other places so it can accessible for people with wheelchairs and physical disabilities. Mr. Meritzer mentioned one particular application that needs to have a ramp would be with the Asian noodle house.

Mr. Meritzer mentioned that that the owner was having difficulties on getting the documentation together. The problem was solved when they sent out a letter.

### **Vox Pop**

Ms. Habdavny brought up the issue is with the changes in the voting district for the upcoming election. The problem about that is that there is not transportation in the new voting place. There has not been that action taken to deal with this type of issue. Most people are not alerted about the change and they will end up finding out that they won't be able to vote because of this type of issue. Mr. McGann said that there are going to plan for recommendations for blind/deaf people to get transportation to get to the voting place before the election starts in the fall. He also made a suggestion on sending a letter to the election board to get this issue situated. For the solution, for the voting district issues there were numbers of car services that will give out free rides for those that need transportation to the voting places.

Another issue mentioned was from Ms. Warman where she talked about an issue from a few meetings ago about buildings being built. The issue about that is there is a possibility of the buildings getting flooded. Mr. Meritizer said that there is a flood plain program that will give help while dealing with these types of situations.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm. The next meeting will be scheduled next month on Monday May 16, 2016 at 1:00 pm in the first floor Conference Room of 200 Ross Street.