

Mayor's Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

Monday, June 24, 2013

Minutes

Members Present: Mike Masker, Chair
Kathy Miklas, Vice Chair
Amanda Vazquez, Secretary
Mary Angus
Mark Smith
Michaela Williams

Members Absent: Beth Ellsworth

Ex Officio: Rhonda Uher

Pre-Meeting

Minutes have been approved from our May 2013 meeting.

Subcommittees:

Survey: Is almost complete, will send it to the group once it's finalized.

Transportation: Coordinated Transit Committee has been re-organized & will become a voting committee dealing with MAP 21 grant projects. Will meet every 2 weeks for the next few months until the re-organization is complete.

Jobs:

Website:

Televised Meeting

- A. Welcome
- B. Chairman Mike Masker welcomed the TV audience, commission members, and guests and announced the times and dates when the program will be replayed on Channel 18 at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. The Chair also provided contact information to the viewing public via the web, the Mayor's Office and the Omaha Human Rights and Relations Department.
- C. The Chairman briefed the audience on the Commission's mission, purpose, meeting format and times.
- D. The Chairman informed the audience that announcements of upcoming events would be made at the end of the meeting. Audience members were advised to have pen and paper handy to take notes.
- E. The Chairman advised that a quorum was present to conduct business.
- F. The Chairman announced that the minutes of the MCCD planning meeting held in May 2013 were approved during the Preliminary Session.

G. Members provided updates on the status of each subcommittee's project.
Survey: Very close to completing the task – survey to be distributed to city employees to improve services to citizens.
Jobs: Working on setting up a meeting with the new Director of Workforce Development.
Transportation: Re-organization of the transportation committee of which MAPA is in charge. Thanks to Lee Myers for his years of dedication. Trying to make best use of vans and other transportation that have been provided to area agencies by federal grants.
Website: website is up and running!

H. Guest Speaker: Nia Karmann, Nebraska Spina Bifida
Young adult representative serving on the Board for Nebraska Spina Bifida
Journey of Hope is a philanthropic event that Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity has taken on. Nia has been involved with this event for 21 years and has been part of the welcoming committee when they stop in Grand Island.

History:

Bruce Rogers rode his bike in 1987 across the country to raise awareness. He had a heart for people with disabilities and wanted to bring a greater awareness to the world.

The inaugural team had 21 members raising \$20,000. It has now grown to have 3 different routes and annually raises more than \$500,000 (north route runs through Nebraska).

This is the 36th year of Journey of Hope. The college guys have been wonderful supporters of this event, which raises awareness and money for people with disabilities.

Slideshow: a series of photos from past year's rides, activities that the guys took part in, etc. They all (3 routes of riders) convene in Washington DC at the end of the summer.

How can you get involved:

-Sponsor a specific rider/crew member (each person must raise \$5,500)

-Sponsor a specific chapter (UNL has a Pi Kappa Phi chapter)

-Give directly to Push America

-Provide a meal/lodging for the team

-www.pushamerica.org

This year, NSB will host a carnival for this year's team in Omaha on July 11th from 1-3pm.

There will be games, a clown (who uses a scooter), a cake walk, pop walk, etc.

Anyone is welcome to attend! Contact Mary Bushman or Sandy Hauser – contact info is on nebraskaspinabifida website.

Money raised goes toward camps, scholarships, BuildAmerica (a construction crew that helps camps with fixer-upper projects – ramps, sidewalk repairs, barrier-free parks, etc.)

Each city has different activities and events. Facebook is a great tool to share the different experiences that the bikers are a part of on their journey across the country.

Riders come from many different states and some even come from different countries.

Two of the participants last year had a disability: they were deaf.

A little info on spina bifida:

Spina bifida – occurs when a baby is born with a hole in its back. There are differing severities depending on placement of the lesion and how severe of an opening there is. Some people are able to use crutches while others must use a wheelchair.

I. Member Announcements

J. Next meeting: July 22, 2013