

MINUTES

Senior & Disabled Services
Advocacy Committee
Hilyard Center
2580 Hilyard Street
Eugene, OR 97405

April 21, 2006

Members Present: Kathy Jenness, Chair; Tim Baxter, Dianne Burch, Jim Patterson, Andrea Gillispie, Ed Necker, Dan Arkin, Leslie Relle

Members Excused: Marion Esty

Guest: Kevin O'Reilly

Staff Present: Patti Little, Kay Metzger

1. Call to Order

Kathy Jenness called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m.

2. Consideration of Meeting Agenda

Dianne Burch requested an item be added regarding the outcome of the Special Session of the Oregon Legislature. Dan Arkin requested an item be added on the Film Festival at the UofO. By consensus, the Committee agreed to add those items to the agenda.

3. Consideration of the minutes of the March 2006 Meeting

Ed Necker moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Dianne Burch. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Committee Business

a. Tax Exemption Paper

At the Advocacy Committee meeting in March, the Committee decided to make this topic the first and foremost discussion of the April meeting. Committee members had agreed to review the paper in preparation for this discussion. As promised, the members came prepared for an informed discussion on how to proceed. The Committee engaged in a lively exchange on several topics.

First, they discussed what the ultimate outcome was that they were hoping to achieve. Upon approval from the LCOG Board, the Advocacy Committee felt the support of the local State Legislators that had been supportive of this idea should be pursued. The Committee evaluated whether or not the paper was specific enough, and the majority felt it was. Additionally, the Committee reviewed strategies for an effective presentation of the ideas. The Committee agreed they would like to stay away from terminology that is of a partisan nature and try to speak to a broad-based audience. They also agreed that the paper would be more effective if it was reformatted slightly.

Next, several members of the Committee shared their experiences working through controversial subjects with a diverse group of participants. This was an enlightening discussion that helped members better understand the objections that others may pose, and how to effectively work through difficult subjects.

Finally, the Committee agreed upon the following action items:

- (1) Kay would reformat the paper as directed by the Committee.
- (2) The Committee would review the paper and suggest changes/edits via e-mail.
- (3) Kay would incorporate the suggestions to make a final draft.
- (4) Kay would write a cover letter that provides some background information, describes why the Advocacy Committee is pursuing this issue, and role of the Advocacy Committee per the Advisory Council By-Laws.
- (5) The paper would be reviewed at the May Advisory Council meetings, with a request that they approve moving forward to the LCOG Board for review and discussion, with a recommendation that S&DS use the paper in its advocacy efforts.

b. Wheelchair Van Parking

Given the time, the Committee chose to allow our guest, Kevin O'Reilly, to present an issue regarding wheelchair van parking. Kevin handed out a survey on the topic, and requested Committee members distribute to their contacts in the community. Kevin described his work on promoting changes to the law that would allow a greater number of spaces specifically for wheelchair vans. Currently the number of spaces is not adequate. Rep. Gilman, Transportation Committee Chair, may present legislation in support of this issue. Committee members agreed to distribute the surveys as requested, and

would like to hear more about this issue. By consensus, the Committee agreed that Kevin should present this issue to the DSAC.

c. Update on Video Conferencing

Kay distributed a draft letter supporting the expanded use of video conferencing, to be signed by Kathy Jenness as Chair of the Advocacy Committee and mailed to local legislators. Andrea Gillispie moved that the letter be accepted as written. Dan Arkin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Summary: Themes from 2005-06 Legislative Conversations

As requested by the Committee, a summary of the common themes from the 2005-06 Legislative Conversations was presented. Dianne Burch commented that it would be worthwhile to send this summary to the Legislators that participated in the Conversations. By consensus, the Committee agreed that the summary, with a cover letter expressing thanks for their participation, should be mailed to the Legislators that participated in the Conversations last fall and winter.

d. Legislative Priorities

Due to the time, discussion on this item was tabled until the next meeting.

e. Film Festival

Dan Arkin announced a film festival highlighting disability issues will be held next week at the UofO. He encouraged all to attend, if possible.

f. Other Business

None.

5. Announcements

No additional announcements were made.

6. Reminder of Next Meeting – May 19th, Hilyard Center

7. Adjourn