

The Mayor's Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2008

Call to order: 3:30 Linda Carter

Roll call – Present: Linda Carter, Mary Carter, Marianne Davis, Elaine Gage,
Susan Barrows, Jim Vidrine, George Richards, Bob Haenggi

Approval of March Minutes: *Motion to accept made, seconded and March minutes accepted by unanimous vote as written.*

Committee Reports

Education	Friend Raising
Membership	Public Relations
Special Projects	20 yr Planning

Education

Jim Vidrine has created a presentation outline for review by committee after June breakfast meeting. Post breakfast committee meetings will be suggested to all committees; more efficient and easier to coordinate for busy committee members.

Linda Carter identified Initiative Ideas discussed during March meeting. Education committee will spearhead “Educating the public and the community about the valuable contributions made to society and the workforce by individuals with disabilities”.

Linda will present community education project at June breakfast meeting.

Friend raising

Regretfully, as of May 14th, Carol Behling with Home Depot submitted her resignation from the MA Board. The Board would like to acknowledge her contributions by sending a note, and letter of appreciation to her employer, Home Depot.

Board acknowledges the need to replace this open position with a business representative from the community. Board will acknowledge Home Depot’s commitment to Mayor’s Alliance mission to support the hiring of individuals with disabilities.

Linda Carter received an interest response from Lynn James to join the Board.

Board reviewed protocol upon notice of member vacancy. Letter to Businesses will be drafted for mailing.

Membership Committee

Board would like to foster relationships with Educational entities supporting students with disabilities; Hodges University (Cystic Fibrosis), Rasmussen (new) and FGCU. FGCU and EEOC successfully partnered on recent project. Professional development activities facilitated by FGCU (Peg Sullivan) could possibly extend to community project work. (Elaine). Rasmussen offering employers discounts for employees pursuing education.

Committee will draft formal letter to solicit educational representation.

Public Relations

Special Projects

Annual breakfast programs will be coordinated by this committee.

20 yr plan

Linda Carter will provide Nancy Gurney with photo collections.

Grants

Solicitations of external grant opportunities were discussed; SW Florida Community Development, Cape Coral Community Development, the Able Trust and Goodwill Industries were discussed; members to vote on grant ideas. Bob Haenggi asked members to define whether these would be philanthropic, or marketing dollar (\$2500 to \$3,000) requests -offering his expertise, and contacts to pursue grant requests.

Tom Feurig of Goodwill Industries, Inc. has requested the Board to develop a budget and plan (April/May) prior to requesting additional grant funds. Jim Vidrine suggested grants to support additional supported employment services. Bob reminded Board that the most effective method when requesting funds is to show a cost savings to Grantor in similar area of service.

Mayor's Alliance Board agreed that a vigorous campaign to improve its public relations image and mission is needed to shift public image away from a "breakfast meeting". Board recommended brief updates of Board's activities could take place during breakfast meetings.

Board discussed creating DVD for outreach activities highlighted by employer testimonials and showing individuals successfully working with job accommodations to familiarize community.

Able Trust will be in Fort Myers in June.

Awards

June: 1) Evan Connell (Mike Scott) and 2) Carol Sue Harris (McDonalds 10yrs.)

August: 1) Louis Rozzero (ICAN) and 2) Amanda Lynch (Hops Rest.)

Linda will contact the nominator by letter and employers will be asked by the nominator to come prepared; describe how the employee benefits the workplace. Bob will arrange media for June 4th awards (Mike Scott).

October Event Planning

Recommendations for Keynote speaker for October breakfast requested by Linda.

Greater focus on the employer's good intent and reasoning for hiring individuals with disabilities during awards ceremonies were suggested.

A "where are they now" theme for October event was suggested. Tracking of previous employees, employers, award winners is lacking.

Linda requests comments on new MA website, user friendliness, and broken links; please let her know. Internet usage is increasing as travel and time expenses decrease.

Disaster planning conference will be 5/21/08 at Three Oaks Conference Center. Contact Linda or Susan Barrows for details.