

MINUTES
FLORIDA KEYS COUNCIL FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (FKCFPWD)
THURSDAY, September 28, 2006
Room 104, State Building, Marathon Government Center

PRESENT: Michelle Wisniewski , Cindy McKnight , Danny Davenport , Jim Malcolm ,Calvin Allen , Elaine Higgins
ABSENT: Christy Knowles , Gary Lowe
GUESTS: Frank Cabello

Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Minutes were approved and there were no additions or corrections.

Report of the Chairperson

Michelle Wisniewski reported that **Calvin Allen**, Monroe County ADA Coordinator, has been designated as staff liaison to the Disability Council by the Administrator.

Mr Allen is then, by default, also Secretary and Treasurer to this Council. Consequently, it would seem this Council has been demoted. Calvin Allen does not report directly to the Administrator as did prior Liaisons and is three levels removed from the Administrator. He works in the Employee Services Division as Equal Employment Opportunities Coordinator.

His cubicle is so tiny and crowded it has no wheelchair access. She also noted that Calvin does not have secretarial staff as did the prior Liaisons. The impact of this Council is now in freefall and the Chairperson questioned whether the BOCC wishes this Council to continue in existence.

Financial Report

Balance is \$24 ,458.00

Report of the Committee on Awards

Cindy Mcknight repoted that she was unable to carry out with the awards because she had gone on a three week vacation. Her awards presentations were rescheduled to the next meeting in Marathon. Eileen made her award presentation and was designated as Liaison for the Center For Independent Living.

Reports of the Committee on Monroe County ADA Upgrades

John King was absent.

Belinda Brown reported that the elections went well..Monroe County Public Works installed portable ramps where needed.

Michelle Wisniewski did 4 spot checks. She noted that the Cudjoe Key Sheriff Substation access aisle is 3 feet wide and should be 5 feet wide. The Boy Scout's Camp site on Summerland Key is accessible. The Big Pine Senior Citizen Center appeared to be accessible. The Moose Lodge site has a parking problem. The surface has pea rock and coral and is neither level nor smooth.

Jim Malcolm reported that work on city facilities has commenced. The City of Key West is ahead of schedule in responding to its ADA settlement agreement.

The White Crown Pigeon Park at Little Hamaca should be accessible next week.

Not much current progress is being made with work on city sidewalks.

Association for Disabled Americans Actions - Michelle Wisniewski reported that a settlement was reached with John Pennakemp State Park. Monroe County received a one year extension , until Memorial Day 2007, to complete its Self- Evaluation and Transition Plan.

The Sunset Key Ferry is now accessible.

Unfinished Business

1. Monroe County is drafting a RFP for closed captioning.
2. County use of Adaptive Devices for deaf-no action yet taken by Monroe County.
3. Additional Parking Specialists for City of Key West was not budgeted. Enforcement will remain spotty at all locations not metered.
4. Gary Lowe's District 2 seat on Council has been vacant since his term expired in February 2006. The alternate position has also been also vacant for over six months.. Michelle will not seek reappointment when her term expires in June 2007.

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New Business

Frank Cabello stated that he could not afford his pill prescription. **Cynthia McKnight** offered to help him seek assistance via Medicare Part D and The VA..

Michelle addressed the corelationship between disability and substance abuse. This may be a good topic for a seminar. Thirty percent of the disabled community have or have had substance abuse issues.

Announcements

Next meeting is Thursday November 16,2006 at 11:00a.m. in the second floor Administrator's Conference Room in the Gato Bldg. 1100 Simonton St. Key West, Florida.

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Adjournmet

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.