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Minutes 03/21/2007

MEETING MINUTES MARCH 21, 2007

Members Present: Lin Baker, Barbara Cutler, Kerrie Fallon, Barbara Jones, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Susan James, Louis Krodel, Kevin O'Brien

Staff Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

Others Present: Paolo Marinelli, Pedestrian Advocate
Doreen Blair, Home Watch Care Givers Program
Cynthia Tollen, Advocate for Death & Hard of Hearing
Glenn Koenig, Consultant for Town Hall Audio System
Heidi Hample, Disability Advocate

Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2007:

Barbara Cutler made a motion seconded by Barbara Jones to approve the Meeting Minutes with the amendment that at the February 21, 2007 Meeting a request was made to provide proper signage recognizing the Arlington Commission on Disability as the host agency at the Community Access Monitor Training scheduled for September 19 and 20, 2007.

Audible Pedestrian Signals:

Barbara Jones said that the Selectmen have decided not to activate the locator signal at the Summer Street and Overlook Road audible pedestrian traffic signal. Barbara Jones expressed concern that the Selectmen had not heard both sides of the issue pertaining to the audible signals at Summer Street and Overlook Road.

A Commission Member said that one of the selectmen questioned why the Disability Commission was involved with determining if the audible pedestrian signals should be activated on Summer Street. Kerrie Fallon suggested that the Commission send a letter to the Selectmen explaining the purpose of the Commission.

Tom Boudreau Memorial Bench:

Jack Jones said that he would contact Diane Boudreau, Tom's wife, about setting a date in May for a dedication of the memorial bench.

CDBG Funding Request:

Jack Jones said that the Commission requested \$200,000 in CDBG funding for curb ramp work on Broadway and Warren St to be spent in FY 2008. In addition \$18,000 has been requested to upgrade the assistive listening system in the Town Hall Auditorium. Paolo Marinelli questioned why the \$25,000 received for FY 2007 had not been expended. Jack Jones said that because the only bid received last fall was six hundred dollars higher than expected the Commission and Town agreed to wait until the spring to solicit new bids for this project.

Town Hall Assistive Listening System:

Cynthia Tollen said that the current assistive listening system in the Town Hall Auditorium is a loop system that was installed in 1992. Cynthia Tollen said that the technology has improved considerably since this system was installed. Cynthia Tollen is proposing that herself or someone else that is hard of hearing be hired as a consultant by the Town to upgrade the existing system or possibly install a frequency system if survey results indicate that a frequency system would be used by more hard of hearing individuals.

Glenn Koenig said that he was hired as a consultant by the Town to review the existing INET technology at the Town Hall and because the Town has hold back money from cable subscribers that can be used for cable related activities he was also requested to review the Town Hall sound system in the auditorium. Glen Koenig said that loop systems for assistive listening that exists in the Auditorium is not usually installed these days because of the expense of installing this type of technology. However Glenn Koenig said that the Town does have overhead headphones that can be used with the existing loop system. Glenn Koenig recommended that a sweep of the Town Hall Auditorium by an acoustical engineer be completed to determine the best location for placement of speakers within the Auditorium.

Home Watch Care Givers Program:

Doreen Blair said that veterans who served ninety days in the service and at least one day was during war time would be eligible to receive an award to receive home care if needed and also to receive seventy-five percent funding for rent in a assistive living home. Of three billion that has been set a side nationally for this program only about three per cent is used annually. The benefit to using Home Watch Care Givers is that they will assist applicants in obtaining benefits sooner then they would if they applied on their own.

Legislative Reception:

Barbara Cutler said that self-advocates have filed legislation that requests that self-advocates receive the same information that is sent to providers.

Barbara Cutler said that a transition fair would be held in Melrose on April 25, 2007 to provide information on the transition from High School to adult services.

Barbara Cutler said that she distributed some Arlington Commission Newsletters at the State House Legislation. Barbara Cutler said that if local Disability Commissions were more organized they would be a strong group of power within the State. Barbara Cutler said that at the Legislative Reception self-advocates requested that the State Department of Mental Retardation change it's name to the Department of Developmental Services. This request was supported by most be at the reception.

Other Business:

Barbara Cutler requested that members of the Commission that do not that do not attend an appropriate number of Commission Meetings per year be requested to consider resigning their membership. Kerrie said that she would notify these members in writing.

Adjournment:

Barbara Cutler made a motion to adjourn seconded by Barbara Jones.

