

MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2011

Members Present: Janice Dallas, Susan James, Barbara Jones

Members Absent: Barbara Cutler, Kerrie Fallon, Maureen St. Hilaire

Others Present: Jack Jones, A.D.A. Coordinator

Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2011:

The meeting minutes of February 16, 2011 were tabled until the April 20, 2011 meeting.

Diversity Career Fair:

Jack said that Greg Ames informed himself that twenty-five employers including Boston College, Veterans Administration, State of Massachusetts, Mt. Auburn Hospital, EPA, Partners, Tufts Health Plan, and Blue Cross Blue Shield will participate in the Job Fair. Jack said that the Job Fair would be held at 11:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 7, 2011 in the Arlington Town Hall Auditorium.

CDBG Request for Curb Cut Work:

Jack said that the Disability Commission has requested One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand for Curb Cut Ramp Work. Jack also said that the Capital Budget Committee was going to recommend to Town Meeting that an additional Sixty-Five Thousand be appropriated from the Capital Budget for Curb Cut Ramp Work.

Brick Walkway at 27 Maple Street:

Jack said that at least two elderly people had fallen over the uneven bricks in front of 27 Maple Street. While at the meeting Heidi telephoned Mike Radenmacher, Director of Public Works, regarding the uneven walkway. Mike said that this walkway was under the authority of the Arlington Redevelopment Board. The Commission agreed to e-mail Carol Kowalski, Ex-Officio member of the Redevelopment Board regarding this issue.

Meeting Procedures:

A discussion of meeting procedures were tabled until the April 16, 2011 Meeting.

Arlington Community Service Committee Assessment Meeting:

Jack said that ten Committees/Commissions meet on Monday, March 7, 2011 for the following reasons. (1) Review and clarify the mission statements of each committee (2) Reconcile the statement of each mission with the activities conducted by the committee (3) Identify the extensions, redundancies and overlaps within and among committees (4) Determine the agreed upon limits of each committee (5) Identify the gaps in service and efforts to be filled and by who. Jack said that the group of committees all involved in civil rights issues decided to meet again in three months.

The 33rd MDDC Annual Legislative Reception:

Maureen St. Hilaire said that MDDC honored Rep. John Scibak (D-South Hadley) and Senator Fred Berry (D-Peabody) as legislators of the Year for their work advocating for the DD community. Jack said that Senate President Therese Murray and Speaker Robert DeLeo attended and spoke. Jack said that this event provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities, family members and advocates to educate state legislators about disability issues and budget matters. Jack said that several examples of Berry's leadership on disability issues were given. These examples were his work for expanded community access for all persons with disabilities; leading efforts on closure of Belchertown, the first freestanding institution to be closed; successfully advocating for the autism insurance bill in the Senate, introducing language to address the barriers of the Pacheco bill in allowing non-profit and other alternatives to state-operated services; and leading in the passage of legislation that changed the name of the Department of Mental Retardation to the Department of Developmental Services in response from many with disabilities who felt stigmatized by the name.

Other Business:

No other business was discussed.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 P.M.