

**Commission on People with Disabilities
November 30, 2006
Southern Maryland Higher Education Center**

Minutes

Attendants: Christina Bishop
Cathy Zumbrun
Dennis Phillips
Kendall Sorenson
Pam Maine
Jacqueline A. Fournier
Mark Kalmus
Pat O'Conner
Arthur Shepherd
Paula Carpenter

Excused: Julie Randall, Paula Andreas

Call to order - The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. by Arthur Shepherd. The meeting agenda was distributed and reviewed by attendants. Arthur Shepherd introduced all members, old and new. A letter from Thomas F. McKay, former President of the Board of County Commissioners for St. Mary's County, was presented to thank the COPD for their work for the community. A listing of commission members was distributed so all could update with new information.

Review previous meeting minutes – Minutes from the previous meetings are not available at this time. A. Shepherd mentioned to members that all available meeting minutes have been posted online. If any members are in possession of minutes not posted, please share them with Christi Bishop for posting in the future.

Financial Report – Christi Bishop shared that 2008 budget information will be submitted at the January meeting (to be held on January 25, 2007 at SMHEC). C. Bishop reminded members that most of the budget is set aside for Disability Awareness Day. The Health Dept. offers \$300 for miscellaneous supplies and door prizes. In addition, many are donated by other sources. C. Bishop mentioned that more tables and chairs may be needed and suggested that members consider further resources to obtain these.

County Compliance / New Laws and/or Regulations – C. Bishop reminded members how to access the ADA website through the County Government website. C. Bishop also gave members an overview of the contents of the ADA website. A handout was distributed to members regarding the Grievance Procedure to notify St. Mary's County Government officials that ADA standards are not being met. This procedure is available to the public on the website. J. Fournier began a discussion regarding how criteria are examined when/if a grievance comes to the committee's attention. C. Bishop reported that no grievances have been reported at the present time but will be handled by the commission when they arise.

Committee Status Reports – Disability Awareness Day will be March 24, 2007 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. C. Bishop said that Paula Andreas will be contacting agencies. More

assistance will be needed for set-up and breakdown of booths and displays. Pam Maine volunteered to solicit for door prizes. Vendors will set-up at 12:00. C. Bishop hopes that kites will be donated by a community business to help save funding. All members were asked to have anyone available help with set-up. Pat O'Conner and Kendall Sorenson-Clark both mentioned that they should be able to supply volunteers to assist in set-up. The Commission on People with Disabilities table will also require representatives to cover. J. Fournier asked for the number of flyers required from the Printing Press. A. Shepherd said it was at least 5000.

Events / Resources / Conferences - C. Bishop mentioned to members that a great example of a Community Accessibility Guide is available online at the following address: <http://www.capecoddisability.org/universal.html>. C. Bishop also distributed a pamphlet entitled "A World of Possibility's" which contains information relating to the commission's endeavors.

New Business – C. Bishop presented excerpts of the current by-laws that members are asked to review with revisions in mind to update and reflect current status. A. Shepherd reminded members that he will be stepping down as co-chair of COPD and that a new chair will be elected at the next meeting on January 25, 2007. He shared that he hopes that the new chair will be a citizen with no prior ties to COPD. Current membership information was updated on a handout and C. Bishop will update the information on the website. Membership applications were distributed to all new members in attendance and will be returned at the January meeting. A. Shepherd informed members of two new COPD members from the Inclusion Study Group. They are Rocco Aiello and Cheryl St. Clair and we are hopeful that they will be attendance at the next meeting. Two new potential citizen member's resumes and applications were distributed to current members for review and recommendation. It was motioned and seconded that all 4 proposed new members be submitted to BOCC for appointment. C. Bishop distributed a proposed agenda format as well as a schedule of upcoming meetings. A. Shepherd asked members if there were any announcements to share. Dennis Phillips of DORS announced that their job shadowing endeavor with the Navy resulted in several participants being hired following completion. Kendall Sorenson-Clark announced that the Greenwell Foundation will hold its Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 2. She also mentioned that meeting space is available at Greenwell State Park and a non-profit organization discount is available. Christi Bishop announced that 2 new playgrounds have been opened at Elms Beach and Cecil Park. They both feature 100% rubber surfacing and are fully accessible to all citizens. C. Zumbrun mentioned that a Disability Disaster Training session for people with disabilities will be held on December 6, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at the Northern Senior Center. A motion to accept the two new citizens to COPD was made and approved.

The next meeting of the Commission on People with Disabilities will be on January 25, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded at 4:59 p.m