

**Board for the Blind and Vision Impaired
Minutes for Quarterly Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 8, 2014
DBVI - Headquarters**

Call to Order: Chairperson Bob Dendy called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. He asked Board members and staff for introductions.

Members Present: Bob Dendy, Chairperson; Marsha Hester; Linda Broady-Myers; Deborah Prost (teleconference)

Members Absent:
Mr. Ron Hamm, Mr. Marc Johnson

Staff Present: Ray Hopkins, Commissioner; Luis Lebron, for Commissioner for Enterprises, Jim Meehan; and Henry Street, Staff Assistant, Recorder

Agenda:
Approved

Minutes:
Ms. Broady-Myers moved that meeting minutes be approved with corrections. Ms. Hester seconded. Approved – from January 14, 2014 meeting

Public Comment: None

Commissioner's Report: Presented by Commissioner Hopkins-
REPORT PROVIDED IN WRITING

As of July 1, 2014 the agency will no longer maintain the Registry of the Blind. There is no funding tied to or affected by this decision. The register did not impact our operations at all

DBVI is having a state-wide staff meeting on May 13-15. The focus is to celebrate our employees, give them tools for taking care of themselves, and we have National representatives from the blindness organizations to inform

staff of what is going on in the blindness community. The Commissioner will send the agenda to the Board to extend the opportunity for them to come.

We are looking for the successor for Eva Ampey who has retired after 35 years of service to the Commonwealth. We hope to have that filled soon. Also we have hired a budget manager that will start on the 10th of April.

Super Summer Camp-This needed to be discussed because of the timing of the event. Glen Slonneger submitted a written request to fund the 2014 Super Summer Camp (\$55,000.00). Ms. Broady-Myers moved that we add the Supper Summer camp to the agenda as an action item to allow for a vote. Mr. Dendy seconded the motion. Mr. Dendy called for comments or questions. The request to fund the summer camp was read by Mr. Street. Ms. Broady-Myers moved that the request be approved; Ms. Prost seconded the motion. All were in favor. **The request to fund Super Sumer Camp was approved.**

The topic of a summer camps for adults who are blind was discussed. While it may not be camp as we experienced as kids, we will have to find ways of giving people who are blind opportunities for inter-action.

We will be filling a position for recreation therapist. The Commissioner has challenged the staff of the Center to make the center the hub or community center for people who are blind.

Endowment Fund Expenditures and Receipts Report: Henry Street

ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT PROVIDED IN WRITING

The Commissioner posed a question to the Board about the format of the financial report that was provided in their Board meeting packets, via DARS Fiscal. All agreed that the format was exactly what they were looking for.

Capital and Non-Capital Outlay

CAPITAL AND NON-CAPITAL REPORT PROVIDED IN WRITING

Briefly reported on the Construction Projects on Campus – All projects are moving forward.

To date there have been no request for the Board to consider funding to any organizations. It has been a practice of the Board that request are in by June.

Virginia Industries for the Blind: Luis Lebron, Retail Division
Manager for Jim Meehan:
VIB REPORT PROVIDED IN WRITING

Arrangement will be made to have the next Board meeting at VIB Richmond Facility.

Items that were not reported in advance from the Business Enterprise Program:

- Over the past eighteen months BEP has added facilities on Commonwealth properties which was not operated by them but has resulted in a net income of over \$300,000.
- The BEP is transitioning to a new business model which gives blind vendors greater responsibility for running their businesses. Training and mentoring program. The Commissioner added that there is a new implementation that is being added to the Strategic Plan for the BEP. While we have some licensed managers, our agreed upon terminology is that we will refer to them as business owners. We have some in the program that are pushing for more control, independence and autonomy; while there are others who are not very interested in more accountability or responsibility. There are a few who are resistant to the change to the extent that they have gone to members of the General Assembly claiming they are being mistreated by asking them to assume more responsibility for their businesses. They are alluding to the fact that we are running people out of the program because they will not be able to do the work required to maintain a business. We have committed to providing them with basic training and working with them as much as we can. However the other part of that is this is to be a business oriented program.

Division for Services Report: Presented by Rick Mitchell

REPORT PROVIDED IN WRITING – This report was focused on mainly employment related vacancies.

Commissioner Hopkins added that the agency sends out a weekly report on job vacancies. If the Board would like to be informed regularly we will share those with you. Ms. Broady-Myers was interested in receiving the list.

As far as filling vacancies on the Board; presently we have the attention of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. He has made a personal commitment to try to help us fill our Board vacancies. If there are people that you know might be interested in serving on this Board or on the State Rehabilitation Counsel (SRC) please urge them to go onto the website and apply or if they send the Commissioner an email and include there resume and he will forward that to the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Dendy asked how many vacancies were there. Mr. Hamm's and Ms. Hester's term both end at the end of June. Ms. Hester is interested in a second term and will submit the required documents for consideration. So at the end of June we will have two vacancies along with resubmitting Ms. Hester's information.

Ms. Broady-Myers discussed the GRTC new no show policy. Also they will implement a new time allotment for making reservations and fair cost goes into effect July 1. People were under the impression that the double fair for non ADA trips was abolished, but City Counsel only out it off until July 1st. This applies to the residents of the City of Richmond and will not affect the residents of Henrico. This proposal will cause transportation costs to double. Also, presently reservations can be made seven days in advance; however with this change reservations can only be made up three days in advance. The Commissioner asked Ms. Brady-Myers to give him something in writing that he could use as a basis to send letters to Mayor Jones, Chairman John Samuels. She also suggested Reva Trammell, who is a strong supporter of individuals with disabilities and seniors.

Survivor Day sponsored by the Department of Emergency Management for the City of Richmond (Regional Event) on June 17th at the Richmond Police Academy and is designed specifically for individuals with disabilities.

Chair Comments: Presented by Bob Dendy

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

***Next Quarterly meeting is scheduled to convene on July 15th 2014
at Virginia Industries for the Blind - Richmond.***