

**Orleans Commission on Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
March 28th, 2008 (3pm)
Orleans Council on Aging**

08 NOV 10 PM 12:58

TOWN OF ORLEANS
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

CM

Present: Jon Gilmore (Chair), Jamie Balliett, Carol Ciulla, Gerard Csaposs, Coreen Brinckerhoff (CORD, guest), Dick Hatch (Orleans Academy Playhouse, guest), Mary Ellen Lavenburg (Orleans Council on Aging).

Orleans Academy Playhouse : Dick Hatch outlined the proposed "west wing" addition for the playhouse, which is planned to happen in 2 stages. A new addition (21 x 27 foot) would provide a HC accessible elevator, ramp, and entrance as one component and the second would be to excavate a full basement under the building and modify certain sections. The main purpose of the first addition is to be able to provide disability access to the second floor theater (currently, there is none). A HC bathroom would also be built within the addition. The entire area would be accessible by driving around the rear of the building (which is currently occupied by a number of sheds). The Academy needs a letter of support from the COD. Review next goes to the MA Architectural Access Board. JB asked about the number of HC parking spots that were planned. DH indicated at least 2, maybe more. JB encouraged the Academy to consider an extra space to meet the demographic needs of the community. JG thanked DH and asked if a letter was needed immediately and DH replied before the AAB meeting.

Mary Ellen Lavenburg from COA: JG asked for a general overview of MEL's work with the COA and any insight to working with the disabled population. MEL indicated that she only started the job recently and although has worked with older individuals, cannot consider herself an authority on the broader Orleans disabled population. She mentioned a few of her efforts to interact disabled seniors. GC offered strong support for MEL's work, that she had hit the ground running and been quite reliable as a resource. JG thanked MEL for taking the time to meet with the COD and stated that working together on projects would help improve outreach efforts. All agreed.

Orleans Needs Analysis Proposal: JG distributed a proposal drafted by Alice Smith of Family Centered Institute to examine the HC only parking spaces in Orleans. The written proposal is for 80 hours of work at \$60 to 75 hour (\$6000 maximum) to perform professional research on this topic, including a survey questionnaire, focus groups, and development of a report. The report would look at current and future demands for HC parking, the town's position on enforcement abilities, analysis of best practices used by 'sister' agencies, analysis on survey findings and focus group sessions, and a set of recommendations from the COD on this subject. JG asked COD members to review this proposal and possibly next month (April), a discussion might be possible with the authors.

CAM Access Training: Sept 24 and 25: JB indicated that he had met with CORD to plan work tasks regarding the event. CORD will be the lead in communicating with the State MOD and will process registrations, schedule interpreters, handle media efforts, and

develop a flier. JB is tasked to handle the site arrangements and food and other planning efforts. JB secured the Harwich Community Center for the event and talked with the Chair of the Harwich Disability Rights Committee (Terry Canavan), who has agreed to co-host the event. This means there will be no fees to use the facility. JB is scheduled to go speak to the Harwich group on April 17th. CB offered that COD would pay for six registrations at the \$85 (professional) level. COD members agreed to pay for 3 slots and ask Harwich to do the same.

Old Business:

1. **Commission Quorum:** GC updated the group that the Town Administrator's office has our request (COD voted 7-0 in January) to go from 9 to 7 members and will respond shortly.
2. **RMV Data on HC Placards:** JG noted a letter from the Mass Registry of Motor Vehicles included with the agenda. This letter revised last month's numbers of HC placards to 321 placards and 7 HC plates in Orleans.
3. **Regional MOD Meeting:** The Chair announced that a regional MOD meeting was scheduled for April 16th at 12-3pm at Eastham Town Hall and he welcomed any members to attend.
4. **Change Meeting Date and Time:** JG stated that he would look into possible changes and get back to the group.

Minutes Approved April 25, 2008.

Minute Taker: JFB

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JFB' followed by a stylized flourish.