



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND
1625 N. MARKET BLVD., SUITE N-112 | SACRAMENTO, CA 95834
PHONE: 916-574-7826 | FAX: 916-574-7829 | EMAIL: GUIDEDOGBOARD@DCA.CA.GOV
WWW.GUIDEDOGBOARD.CA.GOV



Monday, September 22, 2014
1:00 p.m. – Completion of Business
Guide Dogs of the Desert
60735 Dillon Road
Whitewater, CA 92282

Teleconference Phone Number: 1-866-881-6917
Participant Code: 94903

Board Members

Eric Holm, President
Joe Xavier, Secretary
Kathy Bowler
Don Brown
Catherine Carlton
Carmen Delgado
Gwen Marelli

Executive Officer

Brian Skewis

Board Staff

Rosemary Robinson

Legal Counsel

Sabina Knight

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call (Holm/Skewis)
2. President's Welcome (Holm)
3. Approval of the May 5, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes (Skewis)
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Legislative Committee Update (Skewis)
 - b. Outreach and Education Committee Update (Holm)
 - c. Budget Committee Update (Bowler/Brown)
5. Executive Officer's Report (Skewis)
 - a. Budget Report
 - b. Examination Update
 - c. Regulations Update
 - d. Consumer Survey
6. Election of Board Vice President (Holm)
7. Discussion Regarding Puppy Raisers Access to Places of Public Accommodation (Skewis/Board)
8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting (Board)



9. Meeting Calendar and Location

10. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

11. Adjournment

Action may be taken on any item on the agenda. Agenda items may be taken out of order. Meetings of the Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind are open to the public except when specifically noticed otherwise in accordance with the Open Meeting Act. The meeting is accessible to the physically disabled. A person who needs a disability-related accommodation or modification in order to participate in the meeting may make a request by contacting Rosemary Robinson at (916) 574-7826 or by e-mail at Rosemary.Robinson@dca.ca.gov or send a request to 1625 N. Market Blvd., Suite N-112, Sacramento, CA 95834. Providing your request at least five (5) business days before the meeting will help ensure availability of the requested accommodation.



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1. Call to Order/Roll Call



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2. President's Welcome



3. Approval of May 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes

DRAFT MINUTES

Monday, May 5, 2014
1:06 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.
350 Los Ranchitos Road
San Rafael, CA 94903

Board Members Present

Eric Holm, President
Kathy Bowler
Don Brown
Catherine Carlton
Carmen Delgado

Executive Officer (EO)

Brian Skewis

Board Staff

Rosemary Robinson

Legal Counsel

Sabina Knight
Rebecca Bon

Guests

Dennis Zanchi, Strategic Organization, Leadership and Individual Development (SOLID), Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)
Tom Roy, SOLID, DCA
Theresa Stearns, Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB)

AGENDA

Open Session:

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call (Eric Holm)
Board President Eric Holm called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. EO Skewis took roll. Five Board Members were recorded as present and a quorum was established.
2. President's Welcome (E. Holm)
President Holm welcomed everyone and new EO Skewis to the meeting.
3. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes January 13, 2014 (E. Holm)
President Holm asked for a motion to approve the January 13, 2014 meeting minutes as written.

Member Brown motioned to accept the meeting minutes of January 13, 2014 as written with modification under the 2014 Campaign – Fake Service Animals; the “Senate and Professions



Committee” to be replaced with, “Senate Standing Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development.”

Member Bowler seconded the motion.

Board Vote: Motion Passed

4. Committee Reports

a. Legislative Committee Update (B. Skewis)

EO Skewis gave a brief summary of Assembly Bill (AB) 2165.

Discussed were the ramifications it will have on the Board. EO Skewis will consult with DCA’s legislative unit regarding proposed amendments and report back to the Board.

Member Delgado motioned to support the Bill if amended to take into consideration the Board’s applicant size.

Member Bowler seconded the motion.

Board Vote: Motion Passed

b. Outreach and Education Committee Update (E. Holm)

President Holm reported attending the April 30, 2014 Legacy Society Luncheon, where he had the opportunity to meet informally with Chris Benninger, CEO of GDB.

c. Is your “Service Dog” a Fake? (E. Holm)

President Holm reported on Senator Lieu’s informational hearing on February 24, 2014 titled, “Fake Service Dogs, Real Problem or Not?” President Holm spoke as a representative of the Board.

d. Consumer Survey (Board)

Board discussed concerns with D.Sanchi, SOLID, regarding technical and format issues. Sanchi corrected format issues. Sanchi will trouble shoot technical issues and collaborate with EO Skewis to produce a final copy for Board approval.

Member Carlton motioned to delegate Board staff to approve copy as amended with no substantive changes.

Member Bowler seconded the motion.

Board Vote: Passed



5. Executive Officer's Report (B. Skewis)

b. Budget Report

EO Skewis reported that the Board's fund will be insolvent in fiscal year (fy) 2015/2016. Discussed were Board expenditures and revenues. It was agreed to form a committee to review the Board's fiscal issues. Member Bowler and Member Brown were selected for the Budget Committee. The Committee and EO Skewis will collaborate on solutions and goals to align expenditures and revenues and report back to the Board.

c. Examination Update

EO Skewis reported there are 5 examinees. Next exam date is projected for July 2014.

d. Strategic Plan Update

Tom Roy with Solid, DCA reported that the Board's Strategic Plan is out of date. The Board discussed forming a Strategic Plan Committee. Member Carlton and Member Delgado were selected as the Strategic Plan Committee. The Committee and EO Skewis will collaborate with Roy to work on goals and objectives to produce the Board's Strategic Plan. The Committee will provide an update to the Board in July 2014

6. Discussion on and possible action on updating technology requirements for practical exam (Board)

EO Skewis explained the current language on two documents that are provided on the Board's website regarding the practical exam. It was agreed that the technology requirements are outdated and the Security Agreement that requires the examinee's signature, would be retitled and updated.

Member Bowler motioned to amend the language for the technology requirements and the Security Agreement. Legal to approve the amended language and modifications.

Member Brown seconded the motion.

Board Vote: Motion Passed

7. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Budget Committee update.
- Strategic Plan Committee update.
- Approval May 5, 2014 Board Minutes.
- Election of Board Vice President.
- Fake Service Animals and Senator Lieu Update.
- Puppy Raiser Accessibility to Public Places



8. Meeting Calendar and Location

EO Skewis reported the following upcoming meetings:

Board Meeting

Monday, September 22, 2014

Guide Dogs of the Desert

60740 Dillon Road

Whitewater, CA 92282

Board Meeting

Monday, January, 2015

Department of Consumer Affairs

1625 N Market Boulevard

Sacramento, CA 95834

9. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Member Bowler read a letter to the Board received via email from Mr. Dan Wheeler on May 1, 2014. Mr. Wheeler voiced his concerns for puppy raisers' access to public places.

10. Adjournment

Member Delgado motioned to adjourn at 2:35 p.m.

Member Bowler seconded the motion.

4. Committee Reports

a. Legislative Committee

- AB 2264 – LEVINE – ENROLLED

EXISTING LAW

Under existing law, it is an infraction or a misdemeanor for any person to permit any dog which is owned, harbored, or controlled by him or her to cause injury to or the death of any guide, signal, or service dog, as defined, while the guide, signal, or service dog is in discharge of its duties. Existing law makes any person who intentionally causes injury to or the death of any guide, signal, or service dog, as defined, while the dog is in discharge of its duties, guilty of a misdemeanor. Under existing law, if a defendant is convicted of either of these crimes, the defendant is required to make restitution to the person with the disability who has custody or ownership of the dog for any veterinary bills, replacement costs of the dog, or other reasonable costs deemed appropriate by the court if the dog is disabled or killed.

PROPOSED LAW

This bill would make a person with a disability whose guide, signal, or service dog is disabled or killed due to either of the crimes described above eligible for compensation from the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board Restitution Fund, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

b. Outreach and Education Committee

- Consumer Survey – The Consumer Survey went live in late June with our first responses on July 7, 2014. Statistical responses will be discussed during the Executive Officer's report.

c. Budget Committee Update

- The Budget Committee informally met twice via teleconference since the last Board Meeting to discuss the Board's continued solvency. There is currently an approximate \$50k shortfall between annual expenditures and revenue contributing to the Board's declining fund balance. If left unaddressed, the Board's fund will be insolvent in fiscal year 2016-17.
 - Potential Solutions
 - Fee Increase – Increasing the Board's School renewal fee from 0.425% to the statutory cap of 0.5% would generate approximately \$27k annually. This would delay insolvency about 1 year.
 - Budget Reduction – Given the Board's limited budget, there are limited areas where a reduction would be feasible. Reducing all discretionary line items (General Expense, Travel, etc) to a bare minimum would generate approximately \$12K annually. Other significant reductions would be necessary to delay insolvency.



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- Program Expansion – Expanding the scope of the Guide Dog Board would require a legislative change. While this may solve the ongoing solvency issue, it does not address the immediate declining fund balance.

- Committee Recommendation – The Committee feels that a fee increase is premature at this time given the last fee increase took place only a few years ago. The Committee recommends that cost savings measures be implemented while exploring potential program expansion with interested members of the legislature.



5. Executive Officer's Report

- a. Budget Report
 - FY 2013-14 Expenditures: \$147k
 - FY 2013-14 Revenue: \$151k
- b. Examination Update
 - July 28-29, 2014 exam yielded 4 new licensees
 1. Ananda Twitty – Guide Dogs for the Blind (San Rafael) – License #1236
 2. April Hegland – Guide Dogs for the Blind (Oregon) – License #1237
 3. Peter Nowicki – Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation (Connecticut) – License #1238
 4. Rachel Sutton – Guide Dogs for the Blind (Oregon) – License #1239
 - Next examination date - January 26-27, 2015
- c. Regulations Update
 - CCR 2285 – Standards of Conduct - effective 1/1/2015
 - Order of Adoption:
http://www.guidedogboard.ca.gov/about/lawsregs/2285_language.shtml
- d. Consumer Survey
 - 103 Responses
 - Majority demographic of long time guide dog users and graduates from Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael although all three licensed schools were represented.
 - Data regarding individual schools will be analyzed and forwarded to each school to aid in program evaluation and improvement where necessary.



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6. Election of Board Vice President

- Board Members may motion to nominate themselves or other members.
- Each motion requires a second.
- Public comment will be heard concerning each candidate prior to a vote. Comments shall be directed towards a candidate's ability to serve in the capacity of Vice President for the California State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind as it pertains to the regulation of guide dog instructors and schools.

7. Discussion Regarding Puppy Raisers Access to Places of Public Accommodation

- California Civil Code Section 54.2

(a) Every individual with a disability has the right to be accompanied by a guide dog, signal dog, or service dog, especially trained for the purpose, in any of the places specified in Section 54.1 without being required to pay an extra charge or security deposit for the guide dog, signal dog, or service dog. However, the individual shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by his or her dog.

(b) Individuals who are blind or otherwise visually impaired and persons licensed to train guide dogs for individuals who are blind or visually impaired pursuant to Chapter 9.5 (commencing with Section 7200) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code or as defined in regulations implementing Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336), and individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired and persons authorized to train signal dogs for individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired, and individuals with a disability and persons who are authorized to train service dogs for the individuals with a disability may take dogs, for the purpose of training them as guide dogs, signal dogs, or service dogs in any of the places specified in Section 54.1 without being required to pay an extra charge or security deposit for the guide dog, signal dog, or service dog. However, the person shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by his or her dog. These persons shall ensure the dog is on a leash and tagged as a guide dog, signal dog, or service dog by an identification tag issued by the county clerk, animal control department, or other agency, as authorized by Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 30850) of Title 14 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

A violation of the right of an individual under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336) also constitutes a violation of this section, and nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the access of any person in violation of that act.



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8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting



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9. Meeting Calendar and Location

Board Meeting

Monday, January 19, 2015
Department of Consumer Affairs (or teleconference)
1625 N. Market Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95834

Board Meeting

Monday, April 20, 2015
Guide Dogs of America (or teleconference)
13445 Glenoaks Blvd
Sylmar, CA 91342



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10. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda