



Minutes

Wednesday, August 13, 2008
1:00 – 5:00 PM
Department of Consumer Affairs
1625 N. Market Blvd., Suite S-306
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 574-8200

Board Members

Jeff Neidich, President
Tom Scott, Vice-President
Belinda Barragan
Tony Candela
Amy Lyons

Executive Officer

Antonette Sorrick

Legal Counsel

Albert Balingit

Guests

Pamella Petty, Legislative and Policy Review, DCA
Katherine Demos, Legislative and Policy Review, DCA
Bev Augustine, SOLID, DCA
Russ Heimerich, Public Affairs Office, DCA
Kris Grangaard, SOLID, DCA
Tanela Bryant, SOLID, DCA
Cindy Kanemoto, SOLID, DCA
Kathy Kelly, Guide Dogs for the Blind
Cindy Rust, Budget Office, DCA
Cynthia Dines, Budget Office, DCA
Sarah Boire, Special Assistant to the Director, DCA
Sherrill Neidich

AGENDA

Open Session:

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call (J. Neidich/T. Candela)
President Neidich called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM and welcomed the attendees. Tony Candela acted as Secretary and took roll call. All five members were present. A quorum was set to conduct the meeting.

2. President's Welcome (J. Neidich)

President Neidich welcomed and introduced new Board Members, Amy Lyons and Belinda Barragan. After introductions, SOLID was asked to commence Vision Statement planning.

3. Strategic Plan (C. Kanemoto, T. Bryant, K. Grangaard)

Develop Vision Statement

See attached notes.

4. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes March 21, 2008 (J. Neidich)

Vote: Tony Candela motioned to accept the meeting minutes of March 21. Tom Scott seconded the motion. Amy Lyons and Belinda Barragan abstained due to being new board members and not having attended the March 21 Board meeting. Motion passed.

5. Approval of the Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes June 9, 2008 (J. Neidich)

Vote: Tom Scott motioned to accept the meeting minutes of June 9. Tony Candela seconded the motion. Amy Lyons and Belinda Barragan abstained due to being new board members and not having attended the June 9 Board meeting. Motion passed.

6. Committee of the Whole Recommendations

a. Legislative, Regulatory and Statutory Committee Report (T. Scott, J. Neidich)

Committee Chair Tom Scott summarized the Committee report and announced Jeff Neidich as the new member of the Committee.

AB 2276 Assembly Member Fuentes

Committee recommendation: No position.

Board vote: No action taken.

SB 963 Senator Ridley-Thomas

Committee recommendation: None.

A discussion ensued regarding the merits of taking a position on this bill. Antonette Sorrick reported that the Department of Consumer Affairs had an "approved position" of oppose.

Board vote: Belinda Barragan motioned to also oppose the bill. Jeff Neidich seconded the motion. Motion passed.

SB 1174 Senator Lowenthal

Committee recommendation: Support.

Board vote: Belinda Barragan motioned to ratify the position given by the Committee of the Whole from the June 9, 2008 meeting to support the bill. Tony Candela seconded the motion. Amy Lyons abstained. Motion passed.

AB 1869 Assembly Member Anderson
Committee recommendation: None.

H.R. 5734 (Rep. Towns, Edolphus – NY-10)
Committee recommendation: Support.

Board vote: Jeff Neidich motioned to ratify the position given by the Committee of the Whole from the June 9, 2008 meeting, to support the bill. Tony Candela seconded the motion. Amy Lyons abstained. Motion passed.

Task force proposed to be led by EO and joined via phone by instructors from the three guide dog schools.
Committee recommendation: Grant the EO the authority to convene a task force of school instructors and staff to review statutes and regulations.

Board vote: Tony motioned to ratify the position given by the Committee of the Whole from the June 9, 2008 meeting to grant the EO the authority to convene a task force of school instructors and staff to review statutes and regulations. Jeff seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Title 16, Division 22, Article 4, Section 2286 – Continuing Education
This item will be taken up by the task force.

b. Outreach and Education Committee Report (J. Neidich, T. Candela)
Report on CCB Spring Convention/Guide Dog Users of California Event – Saturday, April 12 (T. Candela)
Newsletters – GDDI/GDB/GDA/DCA Spotlight (J. Neidich)
GDB Web site Update (A. Sorrick)
Committee Chair Tony Candela summarized the Committee report. The California Council of the Blind Spring Convention was discussed, as was the participation from Tony at the Guide Dog Users of California luncheon. Jeff Neidich addressed the Board's contribution to newsletters for GDB, GDDI and the Department of Consumer Affairs. Antonette Sorrick reported that Jeff Neidich would be conducting presentations to 100 third grade students at Natomas Park Elementary School. Jeff will also present to the California Association of Guide Dog Users.

c. Statutory and Regulatory Subcommittee (T. Scott, T. Candela)
School Renewal Fee Proposals
Committee Recommendation

Tony Candela opened the Committee presentation with a brief overview of the different fee proposals and the two conference call results with the interested licensed guide dog schools.

Committee recommendation: Through legislative means, the Board change Business and Professions Code Section 7200.7 to read (changes in *italics*)

"A fee equal to *no more than 0.005* of all school expenses incurred in the most recently concluded school calendar year, as specified in the audit required under Section 7217, shall be paid for renewal of a school's license pursuant to Section 7200.5. *The exact percentage shall be defined through regulation.* All fees collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the Guide Dogs for the Blind Fund, which is hereby created."

By Regulation, California Code of Regulation, Title 16, Division 22, Article 2, Section 2268.4 will be added to read:

"A fee equal to 0.00425 of all school expenses incurred in the most recently concluded school calendar year, as specified in the annually required audit (per Code Section 7217) shall be paid for renewal of a school's license."

Board vote: Jeff Neidich motioned to adopt the Committee of the Whole's recommendation to approve the Committee's adoption of the statutory and regulatory language. Tom Scott motions to approve with the amendment "no later than April 30 of each year." The statutory language would read:

"A fee equal to *no more than 0.005* of all school expenses incurred in the most recently concluded school calendar year, as specified in the audit required under Section 7217, shall be paid for renewal of a school's license *no later than April 30 of each year*, pursuant to Section 7200.5. *The exact percentage shall be defined through regulation.* All fees collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the Guide Dogs for the Blind Fund, which is hereby created."

Tony Candela seconded the motion to approve the amendment. Motion to amend passed. Motion was put back on the table, with the approved amendment. Tony Candela seconded the initial motion made by Jeff Neidich. Motion passed.

d. Executive Officer's Report (A. Sorrick)

Outreach Report (CCB Spring Convention, GDB Graduation) – On April 11, 2008, Antonette attended the CCB Spring Convention and on April 12, 2008, Antonette attended the Guide Dogs for the Blind graduation ceremony in San Rafael.

Budget report - As of June 30, 2008, the Budget Report showed the unencumbered balance of \$6,459.00.

Guide Dog Day – Antonette reported that the Outreach and Education Committee would meet on August 20 and would report more details on Guide Dog Day, November 18, 2008 at the September 26 meeting. A request has been made to the Governor's Office to declare November 18 as Guide Dog Day.

Exam Update – Antonette reported that three apprentices had passed the bi-annual examination. The three new guide dog mobility instructors are Melinda Romero (GDDI), Kerri Georghiou (GDDI) and Megan Gutierrez (GDB).

School Inspection Update (GDA Inspection on April 18, 2008) - Antonette Sorrick and Jane Brackman conducted an inspection of Guide Dogs of America on April 18, 2008. The school passed inspection.

Web site Update – Antonette reported that the Board Web site changed to www.guidedogboard.ca.gov. New features continue to be added.

Toll Free Number – Antonette reported that the toll free number had been established for the Board. The new number is (866) 512-9103. Toll free calls are for in-state calls only.

Wallet Licenses – Wallet licenses are scheduled to start going out to guide dog mobility instructors in August.

DCA Report – Nothing to report.

- d. DCA Board/Bureau Conference (A. Sorrick) – Sarah Boire, Special Assistant to the Director, DCA reported on the Professionals Achieving Consumer Trust Summit. Stakeholders and Board Members can find out more about the program and how to participate by going to www.dca.ca.gov.

7. Election of Officers

Jeff Neidich nominated Tony Candela as Secretary. Belinda Barragan seconded the nomination. Vote was taken and Mr. Candela was elected.

Tony Candela nominated Tom Scott as Vice President. Jeff Neidich seconded the nomination. Vote was taken and Mr. Scott was elected.

Tom Scott nominated Jeff Neidich as President. Amy Lyons seconded the nomination. Vote was taken and Mr. Neidich was elected.

8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Committee assignments will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

9. Meeting Calendar and Location

September 25 Strategic Planning - September 26 at the Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. campus in San Rafael, CA

Tuesday, November 18 at the Westin LAX, Los Angeles, CA

10. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda
No public comments were made.

11. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 4:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Antonette Sorrick.