



Minutes

Thursday, September 25, 2008
Strategic Planning Session
9:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc.
350 Los Ranchitos Road
San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 499-4000

Board Members

Jeff Neidich, President

Tom Scott, Vice-President

Belinda Barragan

Tony Candela

Amy Lyons

Executive Officer

Antonette Sorrick

Legal Counsel

Albert Balingit

Guests

Susan Lancara, Legislative and Policy Review Unit, DCA

Kris Grangaard, SOLID, DCA

Tanela Bryant, SOLID, DCA

Open Session:

Thursday, September 25, 2008

1. Call to Order (T. Candela)

President Neidich called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and welcomed the attendees. All five members were present and a quorum was established.

2. Strategic Planning

See attached draft Strategic Plan.

3. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Friday, September 26, 2008
9:03 AM – 11:58 AM
Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc.
350 Los Ranchitos Road
San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 499-4000

Board Members

Jeff Neidich, President

Tom Scott, Vice-President

Belinda Barragan

Tony Candela

Amy Lyons

Executive Officer

Antonette Sorrick

Legal Counsel

Albert Balingit

Guests

Susan Lancara, Legislative and Policy Review Unit, DCA

Kathy Kelly, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc.

Ken Stupi, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc.

Eric Holm, Guide Dog User

Jonathan Lyons, Guide Dog User

Open Session:

Friday, September 26, 2008

1. Call to Order/Roll Call (J. Neidich/T. Candela)

President Neidich called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM and welcomed the attendees. Secretary Tony Candela took roll and a quorum was established to conduct the meeting.

2. President's Welcome (J. Neidich)

President Neidich welcomed Board Members and the audience. The following appointments to standing committees were then announced; Board Member Amy Lyons to the Practice Task Force, Board Member Belinda Barragan to the Statutory and Regulatory Subcommittee, and Vice President Tom Scott to move from the Statutory and Regulatory Subcommittee to continue Chairmanship of the newly titled Legislative Committee. All members accepted these appointments.

3. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes August 13, 2008 (J. Neidich)

Vote: Board Counsel Albert Balingit recommended adding "2008" to top of the Draft Minutes of August 13, 2008. With this amendment, Secretary Candela

motioned to adopt the Minutes. Board Member Barragan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. Committee Reports

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

Committee Chair Scott summarized the Committee report.

SB 963 Senator Ridley-Thomas

Committee recommendation: To remove opposition and change the Board's position to neutral.

Board vote: Secretary Candela motioned to adopt the Committee recommendation to remove opposition and change the Board's position to neutral. Board Member Lyons seconded the motion. Motion passed.

SB 1174 Senator Lowenthal

No further action was taken on this bill.

H.R. 5734 (Rep. Towns, Edolphus – NY-10)

No further action was taken on this bill.

Regulation Update (2250, 2274, 2277)

Antonette updated the Board on the regulatory changes which have been approved by the Office of Administrative Law. These changes were put into effect on September 26, 2008. A notice of these changes will be sent by Antonette to all interested parties.

Practice Task Force Update

Antonette announced that the Practice Task Force had conducted their first meeting and would report their first recommendations to the full board at the November 18, 2008 meeting.

A discussion ensued led by Committee Chair Scott regarding the merits of giving the Legislative Committee the authority to take positions on legislation and alter proposed legislation without convening a board meeting. Chair Scott's concerns were the time limitations presented by quarterly meetings given the legislative calendar. President Neidich and consumers Eric Holm and Jonathan Lyons voiced their concerns about this proposal and its limitations on gathering feedback from stakeholders and the Board. Board Member Barragan suggested the Executive Officer draft a legislative guideline for the Legislative Committee for the Board to review. Antonette agreed to draft this for the November 18, 2008 meeting.

b. Outreach and Education Committee Report (J. Neidich, T. Candela)

Committee Chair Tony Candela summarized the Committee report. New additions to the Web site were discussed as was the Board's continued

interest in contributing to stakeholder newsletters. Antonette reviewed the draft agenda for Guide Dog Day 2008. Chair Candela concluded the presentation by discussing President Neidich's participation in a presentation to five third-grade classes, the California Association of Guide Dog Users (CAGDU) in late August, and Board Member Barragan, Chair Candela and President Neidich's meeting and tour the previous day of Canine Companions for Independence.

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

Budget report – As of October 31, 2008, the Board will have an unencumbered balance of \$2,303.

Fee Concept Paper – Antonette submitted the fee concept paper for the Board. The next step is to look for an author to carry the legislation in December 2008.

Professionals Achieving Consumer Trust Summit – Antonette described the Professionals Achieving Consumer Trust Summit to the audience. Guide Dog Day 2008 will be part of this department-wide event.

DCA Report – Antonette updated the Board on the Unlicensed Activity Campaign. This is an outreach and education-driven campaign sponsored by the Department of Consumer Affairs. Antonette reported that she currently sits on the Outreach Committee for the campaign, and that a toll-free number and Web site have been established. The Web site address is www.inquirebeforeyouhire.ca.gov and the toll-free number is (877) 786-7852.

5. International Guide Dog Federation (K. Kelly)

Kathy Kelly, Manager, Apprentice Program, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. (GDB), presented information regarding the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF) to the Board. She gave the Board some background on the organization and then reported on the possibility of IGDF adopting the Board's 2005 Occupational Analysis.

6. San Francisco State University, Program in Guide Dog Mobility (K. Kelly)

Kathy Kelly reported on the guide dog mobility graduate program at San Francisco State University. This is the nation's first guide dog mobility graduate program. Kathy was instrumental in the program's creation.

7. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Legislative Committee Guidelines will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

8. Meeting Calendar and Location

The Board agreed to the following meeting dates and locations:

Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at the Westin LAX, Los Angeles, CA

Monday, February 23, 2009 at Guide Dogs of America, Sylmar, CA

Monday, May 18, 2009 at Guide Dogs of the Desert, Whitewater, CA

Monday, August 24, 2009 at Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc., San Rafael, CA

Monday, November 16, 2009 at Department of Consumer Affairs, Sacramento, CA

9. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

No public comments were made.

10. Adjournment

Board Member Barragan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Vice President Scott seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Antonette Sorrick.