



## APPROVED MINUTES

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

### Board Members

*Eric Holm, President*  
*Kathy Bowler*  
*Don Brown*  
*Carmen Delgado*  
*Gwen Marelli*

### Executive Officer

*Brian Skewis*

### Legal Counsel

*Sabina Knight*

### Guests

*Catherine Carlton – California Guide Dog Board*  
*Ken Metz – Guide Dog Users of California*  
*Margie Donovan – Guide Dog Users of California*  
*Lillian Scaife – Guide Dog Users Inc.*  
*Linda Somulski - Guide Dogs of the Desert*  
*Bob Wendler - Guide Dogs of the Desert*  
*Sarah Clapp - Guide Dogs of the Desert*

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call  
Board President Eric Holm called the meeting to order at 1:56pm. EO Skewis took roll. 5 members were recorded as present and a quorum was established.
2. President's Welcome  
President Holm welcomed everyone present and on the call
3. Approval of the May 5, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes  
President Holm opened discussion of the Meeting Minutes. Member Bowler motioned to approve the minutes as written.  
  
President Holm seconded the motion.  
  
Board Vote: Motion Passed

#### 4. Committee Reports

##### a. Legislative Committee Update

EO Skewis presented a summary of AB 2264 (Levine) to the Board as enrolled.

Member Brown motioned to delegate EO Skewis to draft a letter of support and present it to the Governor's Office.

Member Delgado seconded the motion.

Board Vote: Motion Passed

##### b. Outreach and Education Committee Update

EO Skewis explained the roll out of the Board's consumer survey, their letter to the ride sharing company, Uber regarding their alleged discrimination, and the Board's invitation to be involved in round table discussions with members of the Legislature regarding service dog issues in California.

Ken Metz asked what issues were to be addressed during round table discussions with the Legislature. EO Skewis explained that the issues that are receiving the most attention are centered on accessibility for legitimate service dog users, fraudulent service dogs in places of public accommodation, and consumer protection regarding the purchase of service dogs.

Margie Donovan clarified that the class action lawsuit between Disability Rights Advocates and Uber is regarding service dog users who have not utilized Uber's services because of hearing about their discriminatory practices.

##### c. Budget Committee Update

Member Bowler explained that the Budget Committee met twice via teleconference to discuss the budget. After explaining that there is a \$50K deficit between expenditures and revenue, Member Bowler requested that EO Skewis explain some of the potential solutions. EO Skewis presented the benefits and detriments with a fee increase, a budget reduction, and program expansion. The Budget Committee feels that a fee increase is premature at this time and recommends that the Board reduce expenditures to remain solvent while exploring program expansion.

The Board discussed the general procedure for identifying additional cost savings, potential opportunities for program expansion, and whether a fee increase was necessary.

Member Bowler motioned to delegate immediate cost savings measures to the EO to best balance the budget in the short term while exploring legislative changes to expand the scope of the program and balance the budget on an ongoing basis.



Member Brown seconded with a request to have the EO report back to the Board regarding legislative exploration.

Bob Wendler expressed that while having one Board meeting each year at each of the three licensed schools had its benefits, it seems to be an unnecessary use of Board funds. EO Skewis responded that the Board's travel line item was one area where savings were identified.

Board Vote: Motion Passed

## 5. Executive Officer's Report

### a. Budget Report

EO Skewis reported on fiscal year 2013-14 expenditures and revenue being \$147K and \$151K respectively. Cost savings in 2013-14 were directly related to the vacancy of the Executive Officer position for a period of 6 months.

### b. Examination Update

EO Skewis reported four new licensees from the July 2014 examination and that the next examination is scheduled for January 26-27, 2015.

### c. Regulations Update

EO Skewis reported on the adoption of the Standards of Conduct regulations change (CCR§ 2285 Ethical Standards of Practice for a Guide Dog Instructor or Guide Dog School) which will be effective January 1, 2015.

### d. Consumer Survey

EO Skewis reported that the Board has received 103 responses to date, that the majority of the responses were from graduates of Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael but that all 3 licensed schools were represented. EO Skewis stated that the data will be analyzed and forwarded to the schools for potential program improvement and evaluation.

Member Delgado asked how many surveys were sent out. EO Skewis answered that the exact number is unknown because the Board is relying on the licensed schools and various guide dog organizations to notify guide dog users of the survey. General discussion occurred regarding how to increase the number of responses and determine the percentage of responses compared to the number of guide dog users in California.

Member Marelli, Delgado, and President Holm discussed a check in period to determine the effectiveness of the outreach of the survey.

Ken Metz asked if the survey was released just to Californians, to graduates of California schools, or to the entire guide dog population. EO Skewis explained that the survey was disseminated via several mailing lists that encompassed graduates of California and out of state schools. Lillian Scaife commented regarding confusion as to whether the survey was intended for all guide dog users, California residents, or



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graduates of California guide dog schools. Member Brown confirmed that the language was ambiguous in one of the mailers that he received. Member Marelli

requested that the schools include an article in their quarterly mailers leading guide dog users to the survey.

Member Delgado motioned to have the Executive Officer update the Board at the next meeting regarding the number of responses and the specific data collected based on each of the questions asked in the survey. Member Delgado also motioned to have the Executive Officer request that each school include an article in their mailing lists to remind guide dog users of the survey.

Members Brown and Marelli seconded.

Board Vote: Motion passed

6. Election of Board Vice President (Holm)

Member Bowler nominated Member Delgado for the position.

Member Marelli seconded the nomination.

Member Delgado accepted the nomination.

No public comments were made

Board Vote: Motion passed.

7. Discussion Regarding Puppy Raisers Access to Places of Public Accommodation (Skewis/Board)

EO Skewis explained the laws applicable to volunteer puppy raisers compared to licensed guide dog trainers in regards to access to places of public accommodation. Because puppy raisers are not considered licensed instructors, they cannot assume access to places of public accommodation. EO Skewis mentioned that he spoke to representatives of the three licensed schools who said that they advise puppy raisers to call ahead if they are not sure if a specific place allows dogs and to socialize the dog elsewhere if a specific location does not allow them.

Ken Metz commented that he believes that it is important that dogs receive as much socialization and interaction in various different places and that he hopes that the Board would eventually support legislation that would include puppy raisers' access rights.

President Holm acknowledged the Board's gratitude for everybody involved in the raising and training of guide dogs.



8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting (Board)  
Fraudulent Service Dog Advertisement and collaboration with other organizations  
California Council of the Blind Resolution 2013 B-1
9. Meeting Calendar and Location  
EO Skewis stated that the next meeting will not occur on Monday January 19, 2015, as noted in the meeting materials because it is a State holiday. The meeting will be rescheduled and noticed appropriately. The following meeting will be April 20, 2015, and is scheduled to be at Guide Dogs of America in Sylmar, however the location may change to achieve cost savings.
10. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda  
None
11. Adjournment  
Member Brown motioned to adjourn at 3:10pm.  
Member Marelli seconded the motion.