

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Employment Committee Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2017

Members Present

Tom Hicks*
Kryslen Holt*
Terell Welch*
Dan Martinez*
Nikki Jeffords*

Members Absent

Jordan Moon

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers, Admin. Assist.
*Teleconferenced

Guests Present

Jennison Asuncion*

Call to Order and Introductions

Tom Hicks called the meeting to order at 11:02 am in the Council Staff Office, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made a quorum was present.

Approval of January 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Nikki Jeffords moved to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2017 Employment Committee meeting. Terell Welch seconded the motion. The committee approved the minutes by unanimous voice vote.

E75 Timeline Review

Tom Hicks inquired whether the job ready candidate videos would be running in the background during the event. Terell Welch stated the videos would run during Registration and lunch at the event. Tom Hicks inquired regarding the length of the job ready candidate videos. Terell Welch stated the videos were about an average of 30 seconds. Tom Hicks stated the videos would help the job ready candidates to network with the employers attending the event.

Tom Hicks inquired regarding the deadline for the committee to submit lunch meal choices. Terell Welch stated he could submit meal choices up until two days prior to the event.

Nikki Jeffords inquired whether the committee would include materials to advertise the E75 Diversity Builder Linked In group. Tom Hicks stated Brian Bossert would attend the event and would take pictures of individuals for their Linked In profiles. Dan Martinez stated he developed Linked In notecards for distribution at previous events. Mr. Martinez stated he could print some more note cards if necessary.

E75 Event Program Outline

Tom Hicks inquired whether the committee had received a biography for Tanner Robinson, as the co-emcee for the event. Dan Martinez stated Mr. Robinson could provide a brief self-introduction and proceed with the program. Tom Hicks inquired whether Marc Ashton, Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) could introduce the emcees of the event. Dan Martinez stated his opinion that might be cumbersome. Tom Hicks inquired whether Tanner Robinson's biography could be read at the same time at the Secretary of State's introduction. Dan Martinez noted the biographies needed to be consistent and all about the same length. Nikki Jeffords stated her opinion that Marc Ashton could introduce the emcees, as a way to welcome everyone to the FBC.

Tom Hicks inquired when Jennison Asuncion would be providing the keynote speaker presentation. Lindsey Powers stated Mr. Asuncion would speak from 11:45 am – 12:15 pm. Tom Hicks inquired whether Mr. Asuncion would be presenting Power Point slides during his presentation. Jennison Asuncion stated he would bring Braille note cards for his presentation, and would require a podium. Jennison Asuncion stated during his presentation, he would encourage the job ready candidates to start new careers and find employment that they enjoy. Dan Martinez inquired regarding Jennison Asuncion's support system when he was young. Jennison Asuncion stated when he was in elementary school; his support group included his teachers, and noted he was integrated early around Second Grade. Mr. Asuncion stated he received more support when he entered higher education and had access to an office for students with disabilities. Jennison Asuncion stated some teachers saw potential, and some teachers offered well-meaning advice. He noted some teachers did not expect much from Mr. Asuncion as a blind student, and did not encourage him in subjects, such as math. Jennison Asuncion noted that while some attitudes have changed, some teachers of blind and visually impaired students still did not expect much of their students. Tom Hicks inquired whether Jennison Asuncion would agree that employment created a greater quality of life for blind and visually impaired individuals. Jennison Asuncion stated employment did increase his quality of life and allowed him to make many friends.

Jennison Asuncion inquired whether he should include a specific message during his presentation. Terell Welch stated the E75 Diversity Builder Award tagline was Eliminate, Employ, and Empower. Mr. Welch stated the committee wanted to eliminate the unemployment rate, barriers, and stigmas of blind and visually impaired individuals. He stated the event wanted to encourage competitive employment of blind and visually impaired individuals, which would empower individuals to have a higher quality of life. Jennison Asuncion inquired whether the event would include media coverage. Terell Welch stated the committee had invited a Public Information Officer, from the Department of Economic Security (DES), who would take pictures of the event.

Tom Hicks inquired whether the committee would agree with Marc Ashton introducing the emcees. Nikki Jeffords stated she would agree with Mr. Ashton introducing the emcees, as he would be the Director of FBC. Terell Welch inquired when Amy Porterfield would speak during the event. Nikki Jeffords inquired why Amy Porterfield had been asked to speak at the event. Tom Hicks stated Amy Porterfield could potentially be the incoming Chair of the GCBVI. Dan Martinez stated the council would be electing a new Chair of the GCBVI and would not know who that individual would be yet. Mr. Martinez stated if Ms. Porterfield was unable to speak about the GCBVI, he would be able to provide a brief presentation about the council.

Tom Hicks motioned for Marc Ashton to provide the welcome at the event and introduce Tanner Robinson and Rich Sorey as the emcees. Nikki Jeffords seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

E75 Event Invite Discussion

Tom Hicks stated he extended invitations to the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA). Tom Hicks inquired whether the committee should develop the table setting of all attendees. Lindsey Powers stated she would develop the table setting for attendees at the event. Tom Hicks suggested the council members be dispersed at different tables at the event. Tom Hicks encouraged the committee members to continue to reach out to employers. Dan Martinez inquired whether all award recipients had confirmed their attendance at the event. Lindsey Powers stated she needed confirmation from Cyracom and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Employment Committee would be on January 25, 2017 from 11:00-12:30 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- E75 Timeline Review
- E75 Event Program
- E75 Event Invite Discussion

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

A call was made to the public with no responses forthcoming.

Adjournment of Meeting

Nikki Jeffords moved to adjourn the meeting; Kryslen Holt seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting stood adjourned at 12:00 p.m.