

BEP Public Meeting
April 11, 2017
Smyrna Hospital for the Chronically Ill
10:00 a.m

Rob Schmidlkofer, Director of BEP, called the meeting to order. Started with introduction of those in attendance.

Jill Morrison; Dava Newnam, Elisha Jenkins, Anthony Paolini, Gary Pizzolo, Wayne Marsh, Thomas Newcomb, Andy Kloepfer

Rob read overview of BVC rules and regulations starting with elections:

- Elections to be held biannually Art 4 sec A
- Enables newly elected committee to take office new fiscal year
- Eligibility
- Sect B BVC shall be 3 (members)
- Term for 2 years
- Sec. C any blind vendor operating a location is eligible to vote

Mike Dunlop/Bill DeGraffenreid just entered.

- Art. 9 Election Procedures: biennial meeting held in March or April to elect BVC with notification at least 30 days.
- See by-laws for remainder discussed

Rob read through the agenda and then announced the BVC's accomplishments this past year:

- Renamed BEP from Business Enterprise program to Blind Entrepreneurs Program
- Open 1st county location in 10 years
- Smyrna Rest Area Gift shop supported by BVC
- Five policies were written and sent to Washington working with SLA. That took 7-9 months to complete. This was the first set of policies sent in 40 years.
- Georgetown hot dog cart is up and running.
- Today's public meeting is the 3rd public meeting held
- Standardized testing (English, math and computers) has begun for candidates. Aiming for 70-75% success rate.
- Quarterly training is in process. Training with Hadley should someone want to leave the state...they'd be certified.
- Annual visit by Terry Smith
- Mission is to raise operators above the poverty level
- Supporting the Del Tech Terry Campus cafeteria (hopefully to be handed over to an operator)
- Held an open house for new candidates/operators
- BVC resolved all disputes with DVI settled in favor of the operators

Nominations for BVC were held. Elections. Outcome was as follows:

On the BVC committee Anthony Paolini, Gary Pizzolo, Wayne Marsh-Chairperson
Alternates are Mike Dunlop, Thomas Newcomb

Mike Dunlop didn't understand why this was being done since nothing was changing. Andy explained it's to be done for procedure. Mike concurred with the rest of the members.

Amendment of Distribution Policy

- Full disclosure yielded a recommendation that vendor name and location be removed from statements.

Washington recommends that this be done. Andy asked that once this is done, does it have to go back to RSA. It does. He volunteered to handle that. Dava suggested additions: take out words "as requested"; use "Governor's Advisory or other councils and members of the general public." Members...would be on its own line.

Wayne Marsh brought up New Business advising that *Campabilities* (exposes blind/visually impaired children to athletics) asked for a donation of \$1000 for this year's session (for transportation). Also recommended that those blind operators who have been active in sports/ para Olympics go down and talk to the kids at Camp.

Elisha asked about the secretary/treasurer of the committee mentioned in the bylaws. Discussion ensued but nothing resolved yet.

Rob suggested that by laws be revisited because they need updating.

Gary suggested a cap for donations and a guideline be proposed for this type of request. All were in agreement to donate the money from account 1.

Public Comment was one from Gary Pizzolo asking about status of the Del Tech Terry Campus cafeteria. No real concrete answer for this.

Mike is interested in taking Del Tech as a satellite. Mike doesn't want the DelDOT cafeteria but is concerned about his vending machines there. New manager needs to be hired. Rob said Del Tech could be discussed after the meeting with Del Tech.

Rob wants to take up the selling snacks around our machines. Doesn't want it to happen again.

Anthony asked about potential BEP trainees are doing. New candidates-4-will be interviewed at the end of May (those who showed interest at January open house).

Meeting was adjourned.