

Groton Parks & Recreation Department
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Real Choice Systems Change Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 15, 2005 - 11:30 a.m.

Committee members present:

Eileen Cicchese, Gary Patterson, Paul Duarte, Carrie Czerwinski, Colin Baxter, Chris Gaynor, Anita Dees, Jan Lehrman, Mary Hannigan, and Jim Flannigan.

Meeting got underway at 11:43 a.m.

Members of the committee were up-dated on the following

- ✓ Jim Flannigan reported on the progress of the booklet. Jim advised that he met with Stan Kosloski on February 8, 2005, and they went through the entire booklet. Stan feels that one more review will be needed then a finalized copy will be ready. Once done Stan suggested that a copy be given to the committee to review. Stan also suggested contacting INFOLINE to have them review to determine if any resources might be missing. Carrie Czerwinski advised that in her experience INFOLINE doesn't seem to have all of the updated resources. She advised that she would assist in this endeavor. Jim hopes to be able to start looking for a printer by the next meeting.
- ✓ Mary Hannigan reported that she spoke to Shawn about the video, and the suggested changes. That some changes have been made. Chris Gaynor stated that she would get information to Mary for the video. Mary also stated that once the video is completed Shawn will make arrangements for copies to be made. The video will be put on the website. The copies to be made will be in video and disc form. Jim Flannigan stated he had been in contact with Converse Communications about doing closed captioning. They gave him a price of \$125 set up fee and \$15 per minute of video. The total price would be under \$300. Mary stated that the price Shawn gave her is not what original thought, but in the same price range. She also reported that initial copies of the video would range between \$400 and \$500 depending on the number of copies desired.
- ✓ Jim Flannigan reported that he re-contacted the Groton Chamber of Commerce, and is still scheduled to address the group on Thursday, February 22, 2005. He stated that the talk is limited to 10 minutes. He did say that he will attempt to arrange another session with the group to encompass more of the philosophy of the grant. Eileen stated that she was in contact with a representative of the Mystic Chamber of Commerce about appearing on a future broadcast of their show All about Mystic.

A discussion ensued and it was agreed to approach the Chamber about putting on a workshop sponsored by the grant. Suggestions about the content of the workshop were to talk about the purpose of the grant, ADA issues, specific needs of the community; inclusion is good business, and presentations by those who have benefited by employment.

- ✓ Eileen next advised that the committee has been invited to be on the program *Welcome to Groton*. Much discussion followed about the program. It was decided that Jim Flannigan and Paul Duarte would do the first segment, and Anita, Amy, and Ron would do the second segment. Eileen further stated that 14 questions were needed for the program. By giving the questions ahead of time no one would be uncomfortable in responding. The committee worked on the questions and following were developed.

Jim and Paul

1. What is the Real Choice Grant?
2. What is inclusion?
3. Why did Groton want to participate?
4. What are some of the things that you want to accomplish with this grant?
5. What have been some of the challenges that you have faced?
6. What have you done to date?
7. What are some of the new projects that you are working on?

Theater/Mentor: Anita, Emily, and Ron

1. What is the leisure mentor program all about?
2. What is the theater project that you are working on?
3. Ron, Tell us how the Groton Regional Theater got involved?
4. What is the goal for the Groton Regional Theater and the Real Choice Grant?
5. Emily, why do you like the theater?
6. What do you think the future of inclusive theater is?
7. How can someone get involved as a leisure mentor or in the theater program?

End the program with contact information for all the programs.

- ✓ Chris Gaynor talked about the theater initiative in New Haven involving those with hearing disabilities. The production is *Big River*, and will be held from March 1 - 6, 2005.
- ✓ Chris Gaynor also spoke about the next regional forum which will be held in Griswold on March 24, 2005.
- ✓ Chris was asked if the grant could be given an extension as two programs are slated to be conducted in October of 2005. She advised that this was a possibility as the

State was also looking to get an extension. She felt that as long as any billing occurred before the end of the year there would be no problem.

- ✓ Jim Flannigan distributed a flier given to him by Jan Lehrman about an upcoming survey for women with disabilities. Jan spoke about the program, and stated that she is already going to participate, and urged anyone else interested to do so.

- ✓ The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
James E. Flannigan