NCBV Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2017

3:32pm

**I. Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum, Richard Saperstein**

A Quorum was present at this meeting.

**Committee:**

Richard Saperstein, Chairperson

Bert Hansen, Vice Chairperson

Carol Ewing, Secretary

Harold Petrofsky, Southern Nevada Representative

Mikie Yamada

Margaret ‘Zippora’ Turner

Beth Perring

Alan Chao

Nels Brown

April Smith

**Staff Attending:**

Drazen Elez, Chief Enterprises Officer, ASO II, Rehabilitation Division, DETR/BEN

Marina Bucalo, BEO I, Rehabilitation Division, DETR/BEN

Catherine Fletcher, BEO I, Rehabilitation Division, DETR/BEN

Janette Parish, AA IV, Rehabilitation Division, DETR/BEN

Jeanne Clark, AA II, Rehabilitation Division, DETR/BEN

Robert Whitney, Deputy Attorney General, State of Nevada

**II. Verification of Posting, Jeanne Clark**

Jeanne Clark confirmed that the Agenda for this meeting was posted in a timely and correct manner and was presently on file.

**III. First Public Comment, Richard Saperstein**

Beth Perring expressed her appreciation for the new Agenda template and font.

**IV. Welcome and Introduction of Guests, Richard Saperstein**

Carol Ewing’s daughter, Johnna Pereyda was present.

**V. For Possible Action- Approval of minutes for the Nevada Committee of Blind Vendors Meeting, June 16, 2017.**

**Carol Ewing made a motion to approve these minutes while Bert Hansen seconded it. This motion passed unanimously.**

**VI. New Business**

A. Discussion- Introduction of New Northern Nevada BEO I, Catherine ‘Katie’ Fletcher, Drazen Elez

Drazen Elez explained the vacancy of this position from Andy Chao’s recent advancement and subsequent move to another agency which is now filled by Catherine “Katie” Fletcher.

Mr. Drazen named several upper management positions held by Ms. Fletcher within the retail, restaurant and golf course facilities as well.

Ms. Fletcher expanded on the description of her skills from describing 25 years of customer service along with service retail (hard line & soft line), corporate recruiting, etc. Katie Fletcher acknowledged her eagerness for a great future with the BEN Program and was welcomed by several BEN Operators.

Beth Perring questioned Ms. Fletcher regarding the extent of her work with the blind community to which Ms. Fletcher answered that she always wished to be involved with her community in some way, however it was difficult to do so during the time she worked and traveled during her earlier positions. Though during her prior occupations there were customers with various disabilities such as the hearing impaired, Ms. Fletcher stated she never worked specifically with the blind community.

B. Possible Action- NCBV Elections: Selection of Dates and Confirmation of Election Process, Drazen Elez

Drazen Elez stated that according to the bylaws the elections must take place in February therefore he proposed that we should combine events to take advantage of Sagebrush being held in NV each year and also reach out to the Sagebrush organization to plan the training conference at the same time. At the Golden Nugget during the Sagebrush Conference, Mr. Elez suggested: 1) Sagebrush 2/12-16; 2) Operator Training, formerly known as Upward Mobility Training- TBA 3) Election Meeting 2-12-18.

It was mentioned by Drazen Elez that members must be present to run for office [or to vote] for a Committee Member on this 2018-20 Committee.

**Harold Petrofsky made a motion to hold the 2018 NCBV Elections and process on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 3:30pm. Carol Ewing seconded it and it passed unanimously.**

***[Later during the Special January 11th NCBV Meeting amended to Friday, February 9th at 3:30pm] was chosen for the election date for NCBV Committee to coincide with the Sagebrush Conference held at the Golden Nugget Hotel/Casino in Las Vegas, February 12-16th*.**

C. Discussion/Possible Action BEN Operator Annual Training: Selection of Date(s) & Discussion of Content, Drazen Elez

Drazen Elez suggested the NCBV take advantage of Sagebrush speakers or schedule a few sessions specific to the Nevada BEP during the week of the Conference with Operators from the North and South in attendance. He invited all to make suggestions as to how this process should go forward either during this meeting or through email of the content therein.

**Carol Ewing made a motion to select combining the Sagebrush Conference and Operator training while Harold Petrofsky seconded that motion and it carried unanimously**.

D. Discussion- BEN Operations Recap and Update on Projects Status and Upcoming Plans, Drazen Elez

Marina Bucalo completed this update:

* Ms. Bucalo announced that trainee; Tim Berg has completed his Hadley online training and thanked Dustin Varnell for guiding Mr. Berg through his on-site training. His *ServSafe* training and testing is scheduled for 12/19/17.
* In speaking of the Clark County Government Snack Bar Ms. Bucalo noted that the Clark County management sent the BEN Program a letter stating that they did not wish to renew their landlord agreement with us. BEN Administration does not feel that the request is legally justified and working with DETR leadership in resolving this issue.
* The Grant Sawyer Building has recently opened an addition to the site a small gift shop at the request of the Governor. There is an opportunity to expand the varieties presently being sold.
* A solicitation was sent to the Reno-Tahoe International Airport approximately a month ago to bid on a concession stand, possibly a gift shop. An airport representative attended an initial walk through and the Vice President of Airport Operations of the airport has been notified about our priority of right under the Randolph-Sheppard Act. We are presently waiting on a response possibly seeking legal advice from State team.
* The Bureau is currently in the process to install a new Micro market at the Las Vegas Police Department and the DETR Headquarter on St. Louis Ave. The estimated date of installation is March 2018.
* The BEN Program is currently in the process of developing a mobile application that can be installed on the Operator’s mobile devices that would allow access to BEN forms, submission of forms and P&L filings. This application will replace the outdated system currently in place and improve the level of service the Bureau provides and the speed with which requests are processed.

Beth Perring asked if anyone recalled the BEN Program locating in the Reno-Tahoe Airport years ago stating that her only concern was where we would be located. Drazen Elez stated that he found this to be true in his file background investigations regarding the airport. Ms. Perring continued by stating that in the past the Program was located in a great site with fairly heavy traffic but installed another organization near our area which discouraged business. Her hope is that we are welcomed and accommodated fairly to which Mr. Elez agreed and disclosed the fact that the Bureau has a system which checks and notes ongoing RFPs to locate those sites finding this location. Rather than force the airport to accept the BEN Program Mr. Elez revealed his hope for a new, innovative product or non-food item offered that would display a positive image to the airport.

The last update item Mr. Elez wished to announce was that Steven McDonald, Deputy Administrator was no longer with the DETR Division.

**VII. Public Comment, Richard Saperstein**

Many participants spoke to give thanks for the Program’s existence and excitement for the coming New Year.

**VIII. Discussion- Date for Next Meeting, Richard Saperstein**

The next meeting was chosen in Item 6B during New Business - February 12th at 3:30pm.

**IX. Adjournment**

**Harold Petrofsky made a motion to adjourn this meeting; Bert Hansen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

*This meeting adjourned at 4:12pm.*