

NCBV Meeting
June 16, 2017
3:30pm

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

A quorum was present at this meeting.

Richard Saperstein, Chairman
Bert Hansen, Vice Chairman
Carol Ewing, Secretary
Bill Schley, Northern Representative

Nels Brown
Benita Mc Henry
Miki Yamada
Alan Chao, Trainee
Frank Pezzimenti, Trainee

Staff:

Shelley Hendren, Administrator, Rehabilitation Division, DETR
Drazen Elez, Chief Enterprises Officer, Rehabilitation, DETR/BEN
David Furse, BEO II, Rehabilitation Division, DETR/BEN
Andy Chao, BEO I, Rehabilitation Division, DETR/BEN
Janette Parish, AA IV, Rehabilitation Division, DETR/BEN
Jeanne Clark, AA II, Rehabilitation Division, DETR/BEN

II. Verification of Posting, Jeanne Clark

Jeanne Clark confirmed that today's agenda was posted in a timely and correct manner and was presently on file.

III. First Public Comment Session, Richard Saperstein

There were none.

IV. Welcome and Introduction of Guests, Richard Saperstein

Frances Baker was present.

V. For Possible Action-Approval of minutes for Nevada Committee of Blind Vendors meeting February 17, 2017, Richard Saperstein

Carol Ewing made a motion to approve these meeting minutes and Bert Hansen seconded that motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business

A. Discussion- Update on new, waived and in progress sites, Drazen Elez

Drazen Elez narrated this subject as Mr. Furse was not in attendance. Mr. Elez noted the great job Mr. Furse did to assemble this report with its milestones of successes and challenges with existing sites as well as the progress on new established sites which he would highlight. Since

the report was emailed to all members Mr. Elez declined to review the entire report but instead highlighted an area from this report regarding the Lloyd George Federal Building Snack Bar.

Existing Sites with Challenges or Successes

#9 Lloyd George Federal Building Snack Bar

Jason Coleman was not able to continue operating his Federal Building site due to medical reasons which called for a quick site bid to be posted. In record time Raymond Spencer was selected and the transition was successful with documents and all things necessary being assembled and completed. Mr. Spencer began his business with no interruption of services.

VII. New Business

A. Discussion/For Possible Action- Review and Approval of proposed BEN Project Plans for SFY 2018, Drazen Elez

Mr. Elez explained that this item is an activity which is done periodically every year to review upcoming activities and to update the Committee regarding BEN's plans for the coming fiscal year. He stated that a few weeks ago the BEN Staff met at length to discuss these upcoming projects for fiscal year 2018. A few weeks ago the BEN staff convened for a day or two to discuss plans for the upcoming year- July of 2017-June 2018 to look for possible new locations, remodels, expansions, initiative developments, etc. and the budget needed to implement them. With that in mind the next consideration would be to assess the priority of such projects by fast tracking some or delaying others, affirming that the Bureau will work diligently to make sure that all of these projects are completed despite other events needing the Bureau's attention. At this time Drazen Elez asked the Committee to vote on accepting or at least acknowledging the report. By approving these proposals, it would allow a work program to be done and by acknowledging them it would ask the Committee to give its support. He further explained that the current funds on hand from the original budget which was submitted a year and a half ago, have funded parts of these projects, but if additional funding for these developments would be needed these Committee supported funds could be used.

Bert Hansen made a motion to acknowledge and accept the report and give Committee approval for any adjustments for any budgetary requirements that may arise. Bill Schley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

B. Discussion/For Possible Action- Updates on the New BEN Funds Dissolution Policy & BEN Nutrition Standards Policy, Drazen Elez

Drazen Elez reminded all of the policies that were revised and approved by the Committee during February 2017's meeting which will be discussed at this meeting. Both policies were sent on to the RSA (Randolph-Sheppard Division) to review and approve. Comments were sent back to the Bureau from the RSA regarding the Dissolution Policy referring to the fact that federal funds cannot be used to distribute to vendors as part of their retirement program. Mr. Elez offered his belief that in their comments they are referring to the Federal tax dollars that are drawn, which are not part of the BEN account. In an effort to gain additional clarification Mr. Elez submitted to the RSA his questions along with four or five phone calls to their office

regarding its explanation last month with no response at this time. Mr. Elez stated that his only concern is that the Program has an accurate representation of the meaning and interpretation and then the policy will be approved as written with possible additional language added specifying details of the sources of funds that consists in the BEN account. He concluded that in the future, if Federal money is added to this Program account, Federal money will not be able to be distributed to the Operators. Once their interpretation is known he assured all that he would update the Committee.

Regarding the BEN Nutrition Standard Policy the RSA asked for a revision to the language for the pricing requirements that is included in the original policy. Southern Nevada [Health District] had issues with that policy language being revised. In doing so, he stated, it would work to benefit the Operators as this requirement is currently written in which would no longer be a requirement but more of a suggestion. After the RSA responds then the policy will be put together. He needed the Committee to vote for the Bureau to be able to make these changes to the policy and submit those changes to the RSA as mentioned rather than the Bureau having to return to the Committee to ask for approval on this specific language.

Bert Hansen asked if it would help this process if the Committee made a motion that if Federal money was accepted it would be held separate from the set aside funds received. Drazen Elez responded by saying though Mr. Hansen had a great point; however for the sake of this policy language could be added to reflect the fact that the funds would be tracked separately from the other. Bert Hansen stated that if it was a policy of our State program then the RSA can be assured the monies would be kept separate.

Bill Schley made a motion that the Committee accepts the tenets as described by Drazen Elez in which two separate sets of funds would be coming in to the Program and tracked separately as described by Bert Hansen. Carol Ewing seconded that motion and it passed unanimously.

Drazen Elez stated that he wished to be certain that the Program could change the language in the BEN Nutrition Standards policy which states that they would be healthy items. The ones that are defined as healthy would be priced at the same or lower than all the other ones. The Bureau would soften the language to read that this is not a requirement, simply a suggestion which all would work in favor of the Operators and profitability.

Carol Ewing made a motion to accept nutrition standard policy and its changes along with the original motion dealing with the Dissolution of Funds in the BEN Program and in keeping separate Federal funds as discussed. Bill Schley seconded these motions and they carried unanimously.

VIII. Second Public Comment, Richard Saperstein

Nels Brown stated that regarding DirecTV and their competitors there is now a law in effect from the SEC that rules that all of these cable and satellite companies within a certain period of time must allow for descriptive video and a talking guide of some sort. He further opined that DirectTV had the best system available already equipped with a full descriptive guide. When switching from channel to channel it also announces the present channel, its name and length

of the show. With that you may access the guide and record anything. Richard Saperstein mentioned that he used DirecTV and had no idea of these features.

Drazen Elez announced that the Deputy Administrator, Steven McDonald, planned to be present at this meeting to meet everyone but due to a family medical emergency was unable to attend. Hopefully Mr. McDonald can attend our next meeting. The Chairman asked Mr. Elez to send the Program's best wishes and hopefully he could join us next time.

Shelley Hendren expressed her commendation to Drazen Elez and all the BEN staff who spent an entire day discussing strategic planning which resulted in a document that was presented to you all in attendance today with the projects and initiatives. She was impressed with some of the innovative ideas which will keep the Program solvent and growing. She wanted to mention this to the committee that there is a strong support team in their BEN staff.

**IX. Discussion- Date for Next NCBV Meeting, Richard Saperstein
Friday, August 18, 2017 at 3:30pm was selected.**

X. Adjournment, Richard Saperstein

Carol Ewing made a motion to adjournment which was seconded by Bill Schley and the motion carried unanimously.

This meeting ended at 3:57pm