

This is the Disability Rights Hawaii Newsletter for July 2011. It is available by email, print, Large Print, or Braille. Please contact ronald@hawaii.edu, or call 961-5601, to add or remove your name from the mailing list, or to change the format of your Newsletter.

..... CONTENTS

Announcement of the ADA Day event, July 26 at the ADRC building.

Minutes of the DRH Board of Directors Meeting, May 31, 2011

Meeting Notes of the DRH General Meeting, May 31, 2011

..... ADA Day Announcement

DRH will not be holding a meeting this month in honor of the ADA Day celebration that will be sponsored by the Mayor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities. We urge our membership to attend this celebration. There will be several short talks on the ADA and on disability services in the County of Hawaii. DRH will have a table, and Ron Amundson (DRH Secretary) will briefly talk on the history of DRH and the ADA. Here are the details:

Event: ADA Day and ADRC Open House, sponsored by the Mayor's Committee on PWD.

Where: ADRC Building, 1055 Kinoole Street, in Hilo. (ADRC means Aging & Disability Resource Center.)

When: July 26, 2011, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Talks and presentations will begin at 1:00 PM.

Many service providers, including both Independent Living Centers, County agencies, the AHA Arts organization, and others will have tables describing their programs and services. We urge all DRH members to attend.

..... May 31, 2011, Board of Directors Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting, Disability Rights Hawaii, May 31, 2011

Attendance: Ron Amundson, Daniel Grant-Johnson, Linda Toms Barker, Donald Haumea, Laura Tobosa, Martin Hodapp.

Absent: Chris Cholas.

Laura Tobosa reported on the bank account: We have 642.50. Laura paid another \$5.00 deposit (to satisfy the bank's demand for action on the account) and paid for the yearly post office box fee. This contribution is very generous, and she was thanked sincerely by other members.

Ron nominated and Linda seconded the following Officers and Directors.

President and Director: Daniel Grant-Johnson
Vice Pres. and Director: Chris Cholas

Secretary and Director: Ron Amundson
Treasurer and Director: Laura Tobosa
Directors: Donald Haumea, Martin Hodapp, Linda Toms Barker

The motion was passed 6/0/0.

The motion was made and passed that DRH be involved in the Christmas Parade (Ron/Linda 6/0/0). Donald said that the parade usually occurs on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

We had a discussion of what's involved in the parade. Shouldn't we have a web site to advertise? Ron and Linda will work on the website.

The BOD meeting was closed, and the General meeting opened.

..... May 31 General Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Daniel Grant-Johnson, Ron Amundson Linda Toms Barker, Donald Haumea, Laura Tobosa. Martin Hodapp, Marianne Hodapp, Gail Yoshishige, Teri Spinola-Campbell (County of HI), Peggy Chamberlain, Lupe Kaawaloa (AILH, Aloha Independent Living Hawaii), Sam Nagasawa (AILH)

Danny opened the meeting, and introductions went around the table.

The meeting began with a discussion of the problem with the new 4-unit apartment building that has no accessibility, in violation of the Fair Housing Act. It was suggested that the problem be brought to the County Fair Housing officer, Alan Rudo. Ron will contact him.

Our complaints about the new MacDonalds building were discussed. Apparently nothing has been done yet.

Donald is going to have a table set up at the fourth Annual AHA Arts display at the Prince Kuhio Plaza. The date will be Saturday, July 23.

Laura, Peggy and Sam all participated in the Charity Walk in Kona, at the Mauna Lani, and reported on that. There were several problems for participants who had disabilities.. The worst was that the parking area was extremely inaccessible. An accessible area was roped off but reserved for "Employees Only." Disabled people were not allowed to use the area, and had a very difficult time getting to and from their rides. An accessible portable toilet was provided (that's good). But it was completely inaccessible, because it was placed on gravel (that's bad). So the people who needed it could not get to it. They asked that DRH contact the Mauna Lani organizers and let them know how poorly they were prepared for the participation of disabled people in their event.

Teri gave County updates. On the renovations to Richardson's, she reported that the consultant had gotten very sick, which slowed down the process. The consultant is back now. The County has to work with the state organizations that govern older locations, to check for old graves, etc., as well as the shoreline management people.

Teri said that Alisa reported a successful Surf Day at Kahalu'u Park. 150 people attended. (Donald reported that there were shark attacks in West Hawaii near that park.)

Teri also reported on the County's reaction to the 2010 ADA standards. The County will not be maintaining the detectable warnings except for Federal projects (because the Dept. of Transportation hasn't retracted the requirement) or if people who need the warnings request them. She has also been working on alternative formats for the tsunami evacuate zone documents. City & County of Honolulu have already done that.

Martin reported on a tour of the UHH campus, showing UHH officers the dangerous locations that are near sidewalks on campus.

Members of Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) visited our meeting to report on their new organization. Sam Nagasawa and Lupe Kaawaloa, Independent Living Specialists on the Big Island, provided a description of their services. Although the names of the basic services provided are the same as those provided by HCIL (Information and Referral, Peer Counseling, Advocacy, Independent Living Skills) there are some significant differences in how they are delivered. AILH has no office here, the staff work out of their own homes, provide services both by phone and by traveling to different parts of the island to provide services in person in clients' homes. AILH was founded on Oahu to provide individuals a choice of where to receive their IL services. They began services on the Big Island in February. They help individuals find the services and resources they need and in some cases find another consumers who can provide peer counseling support. They are working on pulling together a referral list of caregivers. Their goal is to be more hands on with helping identify and address individuals' needs, rather than just being a telephone referral services. We discussed some ideas for doing outreach such as through Vets organizations and the Mayor's Committee. For more information about AILH and about Sam and Lupe, see www.AlohaILHawaii.org. The AILH toll free number (1-800-385-2454) sends messages or email to ensure that Sam and Lupe receive them. Their and their brochure also includes their direct numbers as well: Sam is at 483-0672, and Lupe at 483-0674. (Thanks to Linda for the notes on the AILH -- I missed the first half of the meeting. Sorry.)