



2008 • 2009 Annual Report

City of St. Petersburg
Committee to Advocate For Persons with Impairments
Human Resources Department
Community Affairs Division



CAPI

Committee to Advocate for Persons
with Impairments

March, 2010

Community Affairs Division
Human Resources Department
City of St. Petersburg
P. O. Box 2842
St. Petersburg, FL 33731

Dear Mayor Foster and Honorable City Council Members:

On behalf of the members of the Committee to Advocate for Persons with Impairments (CAPI) and our support staff, it is with pride that I present to you our combined 2008 and 2009 Annual Report. Through CAPI, the City of St. Petersburg has continued its strong commitment to addressing and resolving the needs and concerns of individuals with disabilities.

CAPI has continued to positively impact this community through our advocacy work and disability awareness trainings. For example, CAPI provided disability awareness and sensitivity training to City Departments Managers and Staff, as well as to members of the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce. CAPI's Disability Awareness and Experiential training provides attendees an opportunity to learn about the governing laws ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities, but also allows a "hands-on" experiential component in which attendees are led through various tasks and components that simulate disabilities. A couple of examples of this experiential training include a wheelchair obstacle course, a demonstration on how to properly and appropriately guide someone who is blind and conversely to experience traversing a room with the use of a white cane while blindfolded.

CAPI continues its support by considering funding recommendations for various pieces of assistive technology and devices that enable individuals with disabilities to enjoy various recreational opportunities offered by the City of St. Petersburg. A few examples include an accessible golf cart, which is to be shared between two City-owned golf courses; an automatic door opener at City Hall, Room 100; accessible kayaks, and a Mobi-Mat, which is a strip of material that is laid over difficult terrain, such as sand and grass, thus allowing access for individuals using mobility devices.

Additional advocacy work continued to also ensure equal access is provided at events such as Tampa Bay Rays games. It is through CAPI's advocacy efforts that the Rays games now include American Sign Language interpreters for the National Anthem and "Take me Out to the Ballgame". Continued efforts are sustained to ensure that videos, game highlights, and messages shown on the jumbo screen during games will be captioned so that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing will have access to the same information.

New construction and facility improvement plans are frequently reviewed by CAPI to help ensure that access for individuals with disabilities are provided. Some of the plans reviewed during this report period include the new waterfront Dali Museum, model homes in the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, renovations at Walter Fuller Center, the Mahaffey Theater, and North Shore Pool. CAPI continues to be involved with the St. Petersburg Grand Prix by providing technical assistance to the event planners in order to help eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities who will be attending the race.





Committee to Advocate for Persons
with Impairments

Mayor Foster and Honorable City Council Members
March, 2010
Page 2

The success of CAPI is comprised of passionate and energetic volunteers who make up the Committee's membership as well as the dedicated professional support of City staff including Theresa Jones, Community Affairs Manager; Sharon Peterson, Administrative Secretary; and Jeannine Williams, Assistant City Attorney.

It is an honor and privilege to serve on CAPI and we as a committee are eager to continue our efforts in providing guidance, enhancing accessibility awareness, and showcasing our wonderful City of St. Petersburg with all its amenities. With the continued support of Mayor Foster and City Council members, our efforts will undoubtedly achieve great success.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Page', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Barbara Page, Chair
Committee to Advocate for Persons with Impairments
City of St. Petersburg



CAPI Members

Barbara Page
Chairperson

Jennifer French
Vice Chairperson
(partial term)

Renee Brown
Pamela Hunter
Dr. Gerald Junevicus
Lois Maroney
Paula Orandash
Michael Roush
Raymond Sanderlin
Diane Weiner
Charley J. Williams, Jr.

City Support

Theresa Jones
Manager
Community Affairs Division
Human Resources Department

Jeannine Williams, Esq.
Assistant City Attorney

Barbara Van Camp
Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor
Recreation Department

Table of Contents

CAPI Members. Page 2
 City Support Team. Page 2
 Mission Statement. Page 2
 Historical Overview. Page 3
 Accomplishments. Page 3
 Project Funding Recommendations
 and Accomplishments. . . Page 3-5
 On-Going Projects. Page 5

Mission Statement

*The purpose of the **Committee to Advocate for Persons with Impairments (CAPI or the Committee)** is to advocate, advise and formulate positions on issues facing persons with impairments and to provide the City Council and the Office of the Mayor and other departments, committees and offices thereunder and, whenever possible, private entities with advice and guidance relative to the affairs, concerns, rights, special needs and dignity of persons with impairments to ensure their full participation in and enjoyment of the City's facilities, programs and services. (Resolution 95-197 and CAPI Bylaws, Section 1, Article I).*



Historical Overview

CAPI was originally established by City Council in 1972 as primarily an advisory body without the significant financial resources that it currently enjoys. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA or Act), which was signed into law on July 26, 1990, signaled a new era in advocacy for persons with disabilities as well as the role that the City would play in creating an accessible community. The ADA is a civil rights law that offers protection to persons with disabilities from discrimination in the areas of employment, transportation, and access to public facilities, services and programs.

The ADA compelled the City, in part, to establish a transition plan and to undertake certain actions which would remove architectural barriers and allow persons with impairments equal access to the City's facilities.

The ADA also mandated that the City examine its programs and services and, where necessary, to make reasonable accommodations that would allow persons with impairments to have equal access to and the enjoyment of the City's programs and services.

A serendipitous result of this examination was a redefining of the mission of CAPI by City Council in 1995 and its transformation to that of being more pro-active. In doing so, the City reaffirmed and better defined its commitment to persons with impairments. To its credit, the Council also saw fit to provide access to funding to the Committee from the state mandated reserve which is a set-aside of fines from handicapped parking space violations. CAPI has thus become an integral part of defining the future course of the City of St. Petersburg in ensuring equal access to persons with impairments.



Solo Rider Golf Car

Accomplishments

Florida Statute 316.008(4)(b) provides that a portion of the fines collected for disabled parking violations be used "to provide funds to improve accessibility and equal opportunity to qualified persons who have disabilities in the county or municipality and to provide funds to conduct public awareness programs in the county or municipality concerning persons who have disabilities." As an advisory body, CAPI has made project funding recommendations to the City's Administration, and paid for reoccurring operational expenses such as sign language/CART services for each monthly meeting, and the cost of the City's ADA Consultant.

2008 Project Funding Recommendations & Accomplishments

- 1) \$3,500 to support the Huff & Puff Adaptive Fitness Expo.
- 2) \$7,343.05 for the purchase of 100 foot Mobi Mat.
- 3) \$9,800 for purchase of a Solo Rider Golf Cart for use at both Mangrove Bay and Cypress Links Golf Courses.



Mobi Mat in use at Honda Grand Prix

2008 Project Funding Recommendations & Accomplishments continued on page 4



2008 Project Funding Recommendations & Accomplishments
continued from page 3

- 4) \$6,146 for Therapeutic Recreation's Adaptive Kayaking Program.
- 5) \$30,000 for Closed Captioning for City Council meetings.
- 6) \$3,400 for annual maintenance and replacement cost for Wheelchair Lift.
- 7) Developed a Checklist for Museums and Cultural Venues.
- 8) Developed a Playground Checklist.
- 9) Reviewed the W.I.N. program's brochure, fact sheet and proposed revisions.
- 10) Revised the CAPI Brochure.
- 11) Recommended enhancements to the City's Website Homepage to make it easier for persons with a disability to find the accessible information on the site.
- 12) Conducted ADA training in conjunction with VSA arts of Florida for cultural facilities and venues.
- 13) Conducted ADA training for Codes Compliance staff.
- 14) Developed a resource list of organizations which provide services to persons who may have disabilities.



Volunteer Road Patrol Recognition 12/9/09

- 15) Reviewed the construction plans for several capital improvement projects, including the Main Library, the Tennis Center, Walter Fuller, etc.
- 16) Reviewed plans and provided input regarding the accessibility of the St. Petersburg Honda Grand Prix.



Therapeutic Recreation's Adaptive Kayaking



2009 Project Funding Recommendations & Accomplishments

- 1) \$30,000 for Closed Captioning for City Council meetings.
- 2) \$1,330 for Sign Language Interpreters for Rib Fest.
- 3) \$3,400 for annual maintenance and replacement cost for Wheelchair Lift.
- 4) \$2,839 for Automatic Door Opener for City Hall, Conference Room 100.
- 5) Advocated and corresponded to the Tampa Bay Rays, via a letter from the CAPI Chairperson, for enhancing effective communications for persons who may be deaf or have hearing loss, resulting in sign language interpreters for the National Anthem, etc.
- 6) Reviewed plans and provided input regarding the accessibility of the St. Petersburg Honda Grand Prix.
- 7) Conducted ADA training for places of public accommodations (e.g., businesses, the Pier, etc.) in conjunction with the St. Petersburg Area of Commerce and the City of St. Petersburg Business Assistance Center.
- 8) Approved funding for closed captioning of City Council committee meetings on a 90 day trial basis.
- 9) Provided sign language interpreters for the annual Rib Fest to enhance enjoyment of the event for persons who may be deaf or have hearing loss.
- 10) Reviewed the design plans for the model homes for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.
- 11) Reviewed the design plans for the Center for the Arts Plaza, to located between the Mahaffey Theater and the newly designed Dali Museum.
- 12) City and Pinellas County Emergency Management personnel briefed the CAPI members on emergency policies and procedures for persons who may have a disability.




- 13) Recognized the Volunteer Road patrol volunteers for their role in enforcing the disabled parking regulations throughout the City.

Ongoing Projects

- 1) Continue to facilitate the removal of architectural barriers throughout the community through installation of curb cuts, parking spaces, leveling sidewalks, and other modifications based upon community and CAPI input.
- 2) Continue to work on projects related to accessibility and usability of City parks within the City.
- 3) Continue to advocate for closed captioning of game details at Tropicana Field during Tampa Bay Rays games.
- 4) Continue to provide ADA training for city employees.





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Printed and designed by the City of St. Petersburg Marketing Department

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