Randolph Sheppard

Blind Vendors Trust Fund Advisory Board

March 10th, 2023

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Speaking of that, so now we've completed the EC meeting and now we're going to start the Blind Vendors Trust Fund Advisory Board. So Lynsey's going to give us the minutes for that which shouldn't be too long. So we'll call to order, again, Frank.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Call to order.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Call to order and then roll call committee members would be.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Frank Gaffney.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Shelly LeJeune.

EMMA PALMER: Emma Palmar.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Review of agenda and approval of the minutes from the 20‑‑ we can't do that either. December 19, 2022, meeting. They're incorporated into the other EC meetings which we approved earlier. New business. Again, these are the‑‑ if everybody got a copy of the agenda. The last page tells you the current balance of the trust fund is 638,805.38. Now the biggest hits came in September, August September and October with monthly stipends. So we are building it back up. There have been some uptick in commissions. But the balance as we stand right now. Second page will give you a breakdown of each month. Salaries, benefits, travel, operating expenses.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All I got on that was current. I have two things.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Current year to date, that was page one of the tabs. Then if you kept going on the bottom of the tab. He got that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I'm talking about on my email.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Do you have your email pulled up?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: It's got little tabs at the bottom. Sometimes you have to kind of move it over. You should have everything on there, plus more detail.

EMMA PALMER: He's looking at the same thing she just gave us, right?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Actually, what I send him is more cause they go through each day. But it's kind of hard to read.

KEVIN MONK: Last month looked really good.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: It's all these tabs up here.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay. I didn't see that. All I could find was one.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: There's five of them up there.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I was wondering. Where the heck was the rest of it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay. Cool. So I think that's basically what we got in the trust fund.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: So 638 is where we are right now. Definitely need to get more income. I like Melissa's idea about using LRS money. Kevin, definitely need to explore that more and more.

FRANK GAFFNEY: But how many years away is that?

KEVIN MONK: I think if that happens, initially at least, it would probably be for more supplies for people. I mean, it could happen for equipment too. But initially I think for like a new manager that's going into an existing location they may need some help with some supplies. Microwave, pots and pans.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Like Herbert for example.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That Steven guy that y'all talked about. I mean, David Steel. He said in our meeting we could go to our rehab counselor and get that stuff. He said definitely.

KEVIN MONK: I think that's probably the easiest most short‑term benefit right there.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Let's say, for example, Herb needs more, needs two microwaves and some pots and pans for LaSalle. So he can go open a post‑employment account with LRS?

KEVIN MONK: We don't really do post‑employment anymore, but yeah. He can go open a VR case potentially.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Cause what was that?

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's something else we have to change in the BEP then. It's right in there, post‑employment.

KEVIN MONK: If it's got terms in there, we'll change it. You still get to do that. You still get to get a‑‑.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Cause that's one of the things that's required of the state is to do post-employment.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: We're still doing it.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. We're still doing it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Just different terminology. But yeah. Cause the whole process is that supplies under a thousand bucks. Like I said, for Herb to go out and buy 400‑dollars’ worth of pots and pans or a 500‑dollar microwave that could be a hit. If we get LRS to pay for that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Especially a brand‑new manager who has no money.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. That's where we really...

FRANK GAFFNEY: And also, they can even get the money they need to put in the register and in the vending machines.

EMMA PALMER: At the same time since they getting it buy from them, they get to carry it with them?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: See that was the question Kevin always had. Like if you were to buy this guy's stove or buy him two microwaves, those are his microwaves, right?

EMMA PALMER: That's right. They for him.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's just like if I buy a vending machine the state has to maintain it, but it's mine.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: We do that with Wildlife and Fisheries.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Al Buck. And no, I do not.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: We would if he needed us to, but he does his own.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: He services his own vending machines too. He does not call and ask me to service his machines.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Might because he doesn't know it.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: He may not. I don't know. He doesn't ever ask me to.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Not that people read the BEP or the tag manual.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Max has one machine that belongs to him, but he's getting Coke to service it the same way we are to get them to service state machines.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Which one does he own?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: The last one.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: The last drink machine.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Speaking of Coke machines, the brickyard. We got two machines at the brickyard. That was kind of hard in the past, for whatever reason Herbert was going over there, servicing the vending machine as part of Department of Agriculture. A little snack shop there that would be open the day of the auction. But they're not doing in‑person auctions anymore at property control. When I say brickyard, that's the property control. So we have one snack over there which is on third party to Refreshment Solutions. But we got two Coke machines over there that need to be serviced by somebody. We could try to have it on third party. But what was the feedback we got from Curtis?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Curtis just said that Coca‑Cola is not wanting to take on vending machines that are not going to be making any kind of profit.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That's it.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: But Refreshment Solutions is already going there. Why would they not fill Coke machines.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: What's in it? Cans or bottles?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Cans and water.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: See Coke's getting away from putting cans in machines they service also cause it's not making enough money.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: If you want to try to put it out to bid or we can assign it to a manager. I think it might not be much, but whatever helps the trust fund.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Refreshment Solutions already has a contract there. Just add that to it.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: They have a vending machine there.

FRANK GAFFNEY: It's an existing location.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right. They were just doing snack. Okay. I'll work on that. Some pennies, but every little bit helps.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Especially like my vending machines when we bought them were 4800 and now they're 8,000. Money in the trust fund ain't doubled. Instead of 4,000 coming or 1,000 coming from the trust fund, now it's 2,000 comes from the trust fund.

KEVIN MONK: Can we finish the meeting before we start doing mileage.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Listen, everyone needs to know that they've changed the rules to the mileage on how you get paid for your lunches and all that. If you start it before, if you started before a certain time you got breakfast, lunch, dinner. It's not like that anymore. So if on your first day of travel you'll get a certain amount. And if it's only a one-night stay, I think you only get one amount. So I'm not quite sure how. Your pricing will be a little different probably.

FRANK GAFFNEY: What does that mean?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: I'll have to let you know. That's what that means.

KEVIN MONK: That's not an LRS, LWC thing. That's Division of Administration change. They've gone from like you had so much for breakfast, so much for lunch and it's more of a per diem kind of thing now.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. For the day you will only get a certain amount per day. And then depending on how your travel is if it's only a one-night stay, I only think you get paid for one day. You don't get paid for both.

KEVIN MONK: It's still new to me.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: No one has trained me on it yet. I think it's only like 50 something dollars a day now. And I think if it's like a two‑day stay you only get paid for the first day.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: All right. Once we get the particulars and the exact, we'll get back with you.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I vote we go back to Zoom calls. All in favor.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Got to talk to the governor about that. Anything else to discuss?

FRANK GAFFNEY: I have trouble getting people to come to the meeting as it is.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I know. Well, I think today was kind of unique with different challenges.

FRANK GAFFNEY: They didn't really care.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Actually, I thought today was one of the better meetings we've had. Maybe we don't need.

KEVIN MONK: Any other discussion? Anything else we need to bring up?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Anything else, Frank?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Six years. Did I get that point across?