

Mayor's Council on Disability
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Meeting Minutes
February 02, 2009

Sandra Booher, Chairperson
Katie Jones, Secretary
Jill Hindman, Parliamentarian

Council Members:

Jim Queen
Mary Ann Schenk
Tommy Gates
Carolyn Boyd
Carol Martin
Phillip Stevens
Karl Epperson
John Jackson

Meeting called to order by chairperson, Sandy Booher. Ms. Booher opened the meeting with an apology for small attendance at the start of the meeting, perhaps due to weather and transportation issues. She went ahead with meeting and commented on her hope that people attended for a purpose and may discuss what's going on in the community.

In attendance:

Sandy Booher
Terri Rice (sub for Carolyn Boyd)
Carol Martin
Phillip Stevens
Jay Piercy, OMA Compliance Officer
Kathie Fulgham, Mayor's Office

Excused Absence:

Katie Jones

Visitors:

Dennis Dodson
Rachel Silkey
Bryon Kleusner
Jessica Crowe
Beth Coleman

Elaine Adams
Chris Jackson
Lana Newton
Greg Helms
Brad Stone

Dr. Bryon Kleusner from UTC shared the new Braille maps available on campus located outside the University center across from Brock Hall; a second map will be located on Fifth Street side of the University Center. Maps are mounted on nice metal table easels; portable maps are also available that come with large print directory and Braille directory. Dr. Kleusner wished to involve the Mayor's Council in an unveiling of the maps at UTC along with ribbon cutting and community gathering in the near future. UTC is working closely with Siskin Children's Institute in brailing some of the children's books there.

Beth Coleman from the Chattanooga Area Brain Injury Association announced the 7th Annual Conference on traumatic brain injury, "The Silent & the Invisible", to be held Thursday, February 19, at the Doubletree Hotel. Speakers include TBI specialist for Center for Disease Control, local panel discussion including Linda Davis, Lori McGee, Karen George, State Coordinator for Rosalind Carater Caregivers Institute, National Manage of Office of Care Coordination, Defense & Veterans Brain Injury Center, and our own Dr. Rick Rader; lunch and learn session on returning to work after TBI will be held February 24, 11:30am-1:00pm, at Siskin Hospital. Beth also shared story of Saul Raisin, world class cyclist who spoke at luncheon last Friday and told about his coma to competition experience in which he was near death with an accident in Italy and within three years back on his bicycle into competition; he plans to go for the Iron Man Competition in Hawaii later in 2009.

Carol Martin stated that Volkswagen manager of recruiting will attend the march MCD meeting and share the VW hiring procedures; he'll be here on March 2.

"Disability Days on the Hill" is set for Wednesday, March 11; this is an opportunity to talk with Legislators about issues concerning citizens with disabilities. Sandy Booher and Mary Ann Schenk with the ARC are planning to attend.

"The Seeing Eye" is 80 years old! That's correct. The Cleveland Banner reported all about what to do and what not to do with guide dogs. Their mini-page on Monday, January 26, was dedicated to "The Seeing Eye". A local school newspaper, "The Echo", also carried a front page article on guide dog etiquette.

Nominations: Mayor Littlefield has appointed three new members to the Mayor's Council on Disability. They are John L. Jackson, Nicole Myers, and Robert White.

CARTA has scheduled a new Care-A-Van route for those going to work; there's been good response from the community regarding changes in verbal warnings and verbal announcements on the CARTA buses in general. It's working well. There's been a good amount of input from the community also. CARTA is also the only totally accessible transportation in the state of Tennessee.

There will be increased funding for mass transportation in the President's stimulus bill; this funding will help promote public transportation.

Phillip had no report on the web site; he will meet with Molly Littleton at the Signal Center technology center this week regarding web site accessibility issues.

Announcements:

City Hall Employees Art Show: exhibit of 34 works begins Monday, February 9

March 26, 2009: C.H.I.P.S. Golf Classic golf fundraiser for adaptive golf program to be held at Brown Acres starting at 1:00pm

The President's National Council on disability may hold their annual meeting here in Chattanooga during the second week of October 2009. The city is working on getting this group here but not yet confirmed; they will try to coordinate this event around Go-Fest 2009.

June 2009, UTC Office of Students with Disabilities is taking 27 students to Australia for study abroad trip that includes 2 days in Hawaii, 2 days in Fiji, and 2 days in New Zealand.

Memorial Day Weekend: "Who Fest", arts festival, folk art and VSA sponsoring dancing and performances with people with disabilities at Renaissance Park; sponsors include Allied Arts, Orange Grove Center, VSA and Chattanooga Therapeutic Recreation.

A visitor reported that the Department of Education is not currently represented on the Regional III Mental Health Policy & Planning Council. He cited several cases of children who are not receiving appropriate services. There needs to be cooperation among the Juvenile Court judges, the Department of Children's Services and the Board of Education. For Juvenile Court it was noted that children must break the law in order for them to receive any help, and even when they do receive assistance, it's merely temporary. The question was asked, "Is bipolar disorder officially recognized as a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, July 26, 1990)?"

The meeting was adjourned until the next meeting which will be held on Monday, March 02, 2009, at 3:00pm, at the DRC.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Katye Jones

Katye Jones, Secretary
Mayor's Council on Disability