

Mayor's Council on Disability
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Meeting Minutes
March 03, 2008

Sandra Booher, Chairperson
Bea Lyons, Vice Chair
Katy Jones, Secretary
Jill Hindman, Parliamentarian

Council Members:

Dr. Rick Rader
Jim Queen
Mary Ann Schenk
Tommy Gates
Gina Turley
Carolyn Boyd
Carol Martin
Phillip Stevens
Karl Epperson

Meeting called to order by Chairperson, Sandy Booher

In attendance:

Sandy Booher
Bea Lyons
Jill Hindman
Jim Queen
Dr. Rick Rader
Mary Ann Schenk
Tommy Gates
Karl Epperson

Excused Absence:

Katy Jones
Carolyn Boyd
Carol Martin
Phillip Stevens

Chairperson Booher began the meeting with the roll call of the Council members and acknowledgement of visitors in attendance. She noted that Katy Jones, Carolyn Boyd,

Phillip Stevens and Carol Martin have excused absences from today's meeting.

The Mayor's Council on Disability Retreat final report has been prepared by Angie Sledge, facilitator of the three retreat sessions leading up to this report. Members of the Council met with Ms. Sledge on February 25, to review the report. The approved report will be forwarded to Mayor Littlefield; then Chairperson Booher will request a meeting with the Mayor to discuss the final MCD retreat report.

Discussion continued regarding language of the report, MCD members not being advocates for people with disabilities, a new mission statement for the Council and communication. A new mission statement was approved by the Council: "The mission of the Mayor's Council on Disability is to achieve full societal inclusion for people with disabilities by advising the mayor as to the needs of the citizens."

Jim Queen provided a CARTA update. CARTA is to receive three new vehicles by March 31st; vehicles hopefully will be placed into service during April. There is talk of replacing the aging fleet of CARTA buses. With the high gas prices, CARTA is considering a rate increase in fares for fixed routes, Incline and para-transit vehicles. Mr. Queen played the announcement selected for the on-board fixed route buses for all to hear. The announcer is from Atlanta, GA, and does NASCAR announcements; his voice is clear and easy to understand.

Jill Hindman reported on The Fulfilling the Promise legislation that will come before the Tennessee Legislature about March 17; the Developmental Disabilities Council requested that individuals contact Senator Bo Watson to emphasize the importance of these laws: SB2651 and HB2569.

Jill also reminded everyone of the Disability Days on the Hill to be held in Nashville Wednesday, March 12; Mary Ann

Schenk noted that appointments should be made with your legislators prior to the visit.

Bea Lyons reported that five or six contacts to the Mayor's Council on Disability web site have been made since the February meeting; there were no real inquiries, mostly informational items have been sent. One contact from Elaine Davis requesting Council support of a sporting event at Baylor School on February 23, was sent to the web site.

The following announcements were shared:

ARC of Tennessee is inviting people to bring stories to the ARC of Tennessee web site about the impact of funding cuts from the State Department of Mental Retardation.

Vanderbilt Community Center Family Outreach Committee has available handout with tips for preparing for emergencies; ARC of Tennessee newsletter and PathFinder also available.

Health Care Campaign Training, hearing to be held at the AIM Center, on March 15, 2008, 10:00am until 2:00pm.

Brain Injury, Navigating the Mind Fields, workshop to be held Thursday, March 06, 2008; registration begins at 7:30am.

"Strides of March" fund raising walk event to be held Sunday, March 30, at 2:00pm, in support of Chattanooga Cares.

Dr. Rick Rader met with Greg Helms, Emergency Management Department, to discuss ID tags for persons with special needs; he will share tags at the April meeting.

Therapeutic Recreation Department staff person shared the following items: golf tournament to fund adaptive golf

program, re-start of the adaptive cycling program soon, summer camp, and Tai Chi Demonstration in Miller Park.

Epilepsy Foundation Fundraiser for Chocolate Lovers, April 27th.

Karl Epperson stated he is working on list of organizations and churches available to assist persons who find themselves in the homeless situation; he will bring the list to the April meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm. Next meeting of the Mayor's Council on Disability will be held Monday, April 07, 2008.

Respectfully submitted by Bea Lyons, Vice Chair