

Mayor's Council on Disability  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Meeting Minutes  
April 06, 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  
Bryon Kleusner  
Nichole Myers  
Robert White

Meeting called to order by Chairperson, Sandy Booher.

In attendance:

Carolyn Boyd  
Bryon Kleusner  
Sandy Booher  
John Jackson  
Nichole Myers  
Jay Piercy, OMA City Compliance Officer  
Matt Lea, Assistant to Mayor, Mayor's Office

Excused Absences:

Carol Martin  
Jill Hindman  
Phillip Stevens  
Katie Jones  
Jim Queen

Visitors:

Kim Printz  
Gary Rudolph  
Gina Turley  
April Taylor

Chris Jackson

Ms. Booher opened the meeting with comments regarding LCD projector not working to transmit captioning for Deaf and hard of hearing participants. She also mentioned that Mary Ann Schenk plans to resign from the Council since she has retired from the ARC and also has a new grandbaby born prematurely for whom she is providing care.

Kathie Fulgham is not here to talk about the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Go-Fest celebration; first planning meeting will be held April 22, at 3:00pm, in the Mayor's Conference Room. October 3, 2009, is the date set for this year's event. Changes for the 2009 Go-Fest include a new sponsorship package that will be going out this week, planning divided into fewer meetings, committee work in teams with more efficiency, teams: fundraising team, exhibitor vendor team, therapeutic recreation team, entertainment, visitor experience, volunteer, art expo, safety and electronic technology.

Mayor's Council on Disability is looking for veteran representation on the council; there are two vacancies now with Mary Ann Schenk's resignation. Council members are asked to get their recommendations to Chairperson Sandy.

Chairperson Booher introduced the new Council member, Nicole Myers. Ms. Myers is affiliated with the AIM Center, is a mental health consumer, and is very interested in helping people.

Carolyn Boyd introduced today's guest speaker, Gary Rudolph with Tennessee Career Centers and regional coordinator for the summer program to be offered under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Through the stimulus package the center will receive funds to put young people to work during the summer months. There is opportunity for 700 youth to be hired though out a nine county region beginning June 8, 2009. Young people between 14 and 24 years of age will be working along with 22-24 year olds serving as worksite supervisors to provide leadership. There will be seven adults hired to help oversee these 700 youth. Contract will be

made through Signal Center; program runs through July 31, for approximately six weeks. Program goals include 1) youth to gain summer work experience and 2) youth to spend their money to stimulate economy. Applications are available at the career centers, in the schools and on-line at [www.setde.org](http://www.setde.org), Southeast Tennessee Development; click on youth and application along with other information.

Matt Lea reported on two vacancies on the Council; he asked that Council members send recommendations to him or to Carol Martin, chair of the Nominations Committee. There is still need for representative from Deaf and hard of hearing population. Election of officers will be held at the May meeting. Officers include chair, vice-chair, secretary, and parliamentarian.

Phillip Stevens is working on updates to the City web site to ensure that it is ADA compliant. He has been collaborating with Molly Littleton at Signal Center.

Jill Hindman is not here to share her experience at Disability Days on the Hill held in Nashville on March 11 or to report on the Stigma Project. The Developmental Disability Council meeting for April 8 has been cancelled.

Announcements:

Traumatic Brain Injury Workshop (TBI): Assistive Technology Center at Signal Center

Helen Keller Confident Living Program: April 22-25, at Signal Center, sponsored by the Vital Center and Signal Center

Signal Center Interactive Open House: Thursday, April 30, 5:00-6:30pm

United Way Opening Doors program: April 30, morning event with John Hayes and Wendy

Mission Transition, collaboration between Signal Center and the Hamilton County School Board for specialized education and high school students with disabilities; transition fair to be held in different schools; one transition fair has already been conducted at The Dawn School.

Flyer about Independent Explorers: transition program for Signal Center adult centers program, working with young adults in job readiness skills development

Fair Housing Conference: April 14, at 10:00am, at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo; keynote speaker is the Honorable Gordon L. Joyner from Atlanta, who has extensive history with the E. E. O. C. and with the Fair Housing Council. Contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs for more information.

Walk4Hearing: Saturday, May 16, at Chattanooga State and the adjoining Tennessee River Walk; awareness for hearing loss; visit the web site at [www.walk4hearing.org](http://www.walk4hearing.org) and click on Chattanooga TN to join a team or to make a donation; Chattanooga Chapter HLAA goal to raise \$25,000. Check out the teams: Signal Center team, Bea Lyons team and Nelda Twitchell team.

WHO Fest: Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday and Sunday in collaboration with VSA, Very Special Artists; combination of visual and performing artists

City Hall Arts Show with 45 artists still going on for city employees...very successful. Perhaps a group of disabled artists could plan City Hall exhibit for spring next year; be thinking about this idea.

Parrots and Birds Event: May 9 & 10, at the Armory located on Holtzclaw Avenue; Saturday beginning at 9:00am and Sunday beginning at 10:00am; lecture series included in the event. Everyone is invited, especially the kids.

Nichole mentioned fine Arts Center at the AIM Center; it has been in operation for about two months; contact Ashley Evans for more information.

Hurricane Creek Subdivision Biannual Yard Sale: April 25, support for UTC students with disabilities trip to Australia; contact UTC Office of Students with Disabilities, at 425-4006.

Meeting was adjourned. Next Mayor's Council on Disability meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, 2009, at 3:00pm, at the DRC.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

*Katye Jones*

Katye Jones, Secretary  
Mayor's Council on Disability