

Mayor's Council on Disability  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Meeting Minutes  
July 07, 2008

Sandra Booher, Chairperson  
Bea Lyons, Vice Chair  
Katie 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  
Carolyn Boyd  
Karl Epperson  
Tommy Gates  
Jill Hindman  
Bea Lyons  
Carol Martin

Excused Absence:

Jim Queen  
Katie Jones

Visitors:

Beth Coleman  
Elaine Adams

Rick Rader  
Phillip Stevens  
Mary Ann Schenk  
Matt Lea-Mayor's Office  
Kathie Fulgham-Mayor's Office

John Jackson  
Chris Jackson  
Greg Smith

Chairperson Sandra Booher opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance; roll call of the Mayor's Council on Disability was taken, and visitors introduced themselves to the Council members.

Minutes for the June 02 meeting were distributed via email prior to today's meeting; these minutes were approved with corrections and will be placed on the MCD web site.

Jill Hindman stated that there is a CARTA public hearing to be held at the Downtown Public Library from 6:00 until 8:00pm this evening; this is an open meeting where citizens are encouraged to attend. Ms. Hindman, a CARTA Board member, strongly encouraged people with disabilities who use the transit services to go and speak out on the issues. The Mayor's Council on Disability can share with others the importance of public transportation to people with disabilities.

Chairperson Booher initiated a discussion of Go!Fest 2008 and reminded everyone that this special event will be held at the Chattanooga Zoo on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am until 3:00pm; Matt Lea and Kathie Fulgham from the Mayor's Office will be working with the members of the Mayor's Council on Disability to coordinate the Art Show and the Career Expo. In a letter shared with MCD members, Mayor Littlefield has requested that for this year's Go!Fest the MCD

be responsible for planning these two events. Any funding requests for Go!Fest should be sent to Matt Lea for processing and approval.

Matt Lea also introduced Jay Piercy, the new compliance officer for the city and Cassandra Crosby, special projects and community affairs coordinator in the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA). Ms. Crosby will assist with the Career Expo as a part of Go!Fest also.

Volunteers for the Art Show include John Jackson, Karl Epperson, Sandy Booher, and Bea Lyons. Career Expo volunteers include Carol Martin and Carolyn Boyd.

The Nominating Committee will resume work on reviewing prospective candidates for membership onto the Mayor's Council on Disability and on preparing recommendations for new MCD members to Mayor Littlefield. The committee will also address the election process and the election of new officers for the Council. Matt Lea suggested that a formal interview process be held where interested prospective candidates come before a select board comprised of one or two MCD members, Matt Lea and Phillip Stevens from the Mayor's Office to review the qualities and skills brought to the table to ensure that a well-rounded council is appointed. The Nominating Committee plans to schedule a meeting within the next two weeks.

Carol Martin reported on plans for the "disABILITIES in the Workplace" seminar to be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2008, 8:30 until 11:30am at the EPB Building that is sponsored by the Mayor's Council on Disability, the Developmental Disabilities Council and several other organizations. A panel

of working people with disabilities sharing their experiences on the job, panel sharing myths and facts about disabilities, discussion of incentives such as tax incentives for employers, on-the-job training, and job coaching as provided by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will be the topics of the seminar. Seventy-five to one hundred participants are expected to attend; employers and supervisors from a variety of companies as well as five persons from the City Human Resources Department are planning to attend.

Concerning MCD web site updates, Phillip Stevens reported that Go!Fest news is now posted on the web site; special events from the City's Parks and Recreation Department have been posted. Bea Lyons reported that there have been no new email inquiries across the web site since May.

#### Announcements:

A Career Expo to be held at the BX Crossing, Brainerd Baptist Church, on Wednesday, August 06, 2008; BX Crossing is located at Belvoir Avenue and Terrace near the interstate.

Tennessee Chapter of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Orange Grove Center will host a seminar entitled "Normalization Revisited" with guest speaker Wolf Wolfensburger; there is a \$25 fee that includes continental breakfast. Please RSVP to Susan Jenkins at Orange Grove Center, at 423-493-2924. Seminar is limited to 75 participants.

Karl Epperson mentioned problem of no curb cuts located in the area of Grove Street downtown; Phillip Stevens

responded that the problem has already been reported to the City.

Art Exhibit (Show Case for the Arts) set for May 23, 2009, was announced by John Jackson; the Mayor's Council on Disability will assist with planning the event. Also involved may be VSA, Very Special Arts, a chapter in nearby Murfreesboro TN, and Allied Arts.

Matt Lea reminded everyone that it is very important to spread the word about Go!Fest; he'd like to see a large crowd participating this year. Last year was wonderful with the venue changed to the Chattanooga Zoo. A new poster is being prepared that can be used for publicizing this event across the city.

Chairman Booher reported on the MCD members' recent meeting with Mayor Littlefield. The Mayor is excited about the Council, and is open to the MCD members' ideas and how to make the city more accessible to citizens with disabilities; he wants the Council to bring issues to him. The Mayor listened, and the Council is appreciative of that fact. The meeting was a very positive one and most encouraging.

There being no additional items of business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Mayor's Council on Disability will be held Monday, August 04, 2008, 3:00-4:30pm, at the DRC.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Katy Jones, Secretary.