

Mayor's Council on Disability
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Meeting Minutes
November 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
Katy Jones
Jill Hindman
Jim Queen
Rick Rader
Carol Martin
Phillip Stevens
Tommy Gates
Matt Lea, Mayor's Office
Kathie Fulgham, Mayor's Office

Excused Absence:

Gina Turley
Carolyn Boyd

Visitors:

Chris Jackson
John Jackson
Dennis Dodson
Joseph Kotsis
Lana Newton

Mayor's Council on Disability minutes for October 06, 2008, will be distributed to members via email and approved at later date.

New Business:

Pass It On Conference-Device Reutilization Conference will be held Friday, November 07, 2008, in Nashville, TN. Representatives from the Assistive technology Department at Signal Centers will attend the conference; MCD member Carolyn Boyd will report to the Council at the December meeting. The primary objective of the conference is to reuse computers for people with disabilities in a free program.

Old Business:

Matt Lea presented a Go-Fest report. The city has received only great reviews of Go-Fest 2008; it was a spectacular event. Many Go-Fest survey forms have been returned to Phillip Stevens with positive feedback noted for the event. 3,500 people attended, event received good publicity, Art Expo handled by John Jackson reported to be brilliant, Thanks went to the whole Go-Fest Team for a job well done. Nine artists participated in a great Art Expo; Jim Queen reported on transportation being overwhelmed which was a "delightful problem" to have; Warner Park vans assisted with transportation spill-over to Engle Stadium. Overall transportation went pretty well. Photos are already posted to the Go-Fest web site. Carol Martin reported that the Career Fair was dismal compared to the rest of Go-Fest activities; no one made it over to the Education Building, and exhibitors/employers probably will not want to participate again in the future. In future Career Fair may be changed to a different venue. Planning for 2009 Go-Fest may get underway after the holidays perhaps sometime in January. Consideration for this upcoming 5th year of the event, may be that Career Fair will become separate schools function, while Go-Fest takes on more of a festival atmosphere that includes the Art Expo.

The concept of having mini-transition fairs in the schools, high schools with parents and their children with disabilities is a positive

one. The Mayor's Council on Disability may want to consider that these mini-fairs can reach parents more effectively.

Chairperson Booher asked again for clarification on the nominating procedures. Matt Lea met with Anita Ebersol today about MCD nominations; they have few MCD prospects they would like to add to the nominations pool of candidates. Nominating Committee file of resumes are to be sent to Matt for review.

Kathie Fulgham shared additional Go-Fest news as photos were being passed among members. Go-Fest earned nearly \$20,000 after expenses for the Play Core Playground; this is the first time Go-Fest has made money for long-term project. We had more media coverage than in the past; the Mayor is preparing Thank You notes. The 2008 Go-Fest was the most successful celebration ever held! Chairperson Booher reminded members that we should support all of the Go-Fest sponsors as we begin to do our holiday shopping. Take time to say, "Thank you", for their support of the Go-Fest celebration.

Ms. Fulgham also stated that local Best Buy at Hamilton Place submitted their Go-Fest photos to their corporate headquarters, a global company, who took a special interest in the event. They are putting Go-Fest into their corporate newsletter that goes out to every country where Best Buy has facilities. Also the more that Best Buy is participating in the community, the more points they get; and they will be donating \$1,000 to the Play Core Playground through Friends of the Zoo because of this community involvement. People will be seeing our Go-Fest all over the world now.

Phillip Stevens and Bea Lyons reported only a small number of inquiries on the web site this month. MCD members were asked to review the city web site at www.chattanooga.gov for ADA compliance. There have been issues in other cities from where they're showing their web sites are not in compliance with ADA regulations. Chairperson Booher suggested that the city use the BOBBY program to check-out the web site for accessibility compliance. BOBBY is a software program that simply tells about

web site access and what is needed to make more accessible for people with disabilities.

Jim Queen gave an update from CARTA: new electric shuttles running around town with new wraps; a wrap is where a vehicle is completely wrapped with an advertisement. These wraps are part of the sponsorship from the city, public and private sectors helping to fund the shortfall in the CARTA budget. The newest vehicle is the Republic Parking shuttle along with the Chattanooga State bus; future possible wraps include VW and the Lookouts. CARTA is still in process of applying for grant funding and is now in second phase of fine-tuning grant application; expressions of appreciation were shared with everyone who wrote letters of support. CARTA is also seriously considering small minivans to augment vehicles that the fixed route supervisors are driving to make them more accessible when having to assist riders with disabilities.

Jill Hindman reported on the Developmental Disabilities Council: working on Fulfill the Promise Campaign again this year. With state funding tight, the campaign bill is not likely to pass; however, the more our voices are heard, the more the Legislature is aware of issues that need to be addressed when economic conditions improve in the future. Ms. Hindman plans to invite William Eddington to visit a future MCD meeting to talk about this state project. She also announced that there will be a statewide accessible housing conference to be held sometime in December.

Announcements:

Dennis Dodson, Depression Bipolar Support Alliance Hamilton County, TN Chapter, participated in Go-Fest. His participation in the event served as a catalyst for starting up a support group for adolescents.

Joseph Kotsis, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) works with John Hayes of the United Way and with James McKissick of the Urban League; their new focus is to provide tax assistance to people with disabilities. For more information about the varied services provided through VITA, contact Joseph at the following:

Email: Joseph.J.Kotsis2@irs.gov or cell phone: 423/290-5319.

Lana Newton, Program Coordinator, Deaf-Blind Services, State of Tennessee announced that the South East Regional Institute on Deafness (SERID) will be held in Chattanooga, TN, in October 2012.

Next meeting of the Mayor's Council on Disability will be held Monday, December 01, 2008, 3:00-4:30pm, at the DRC.

Meeting was adjourned at 400pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Katye Jones, Secretary
Mayor's Council on Disability