

Mayor's Council on Disability
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Meeting Minutes
January 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
Bea Lyons
Katie Jones
Mary Ann Schenk
Carol Martin
Gina Turley
Jim Queen

Karl Epperson
Tommy Gates
Phillip Stevens
Matt Lea, Liaison to Mayor's Office
Jacqueline Strong-Moss, Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs

Visitors were acknowledged and thanked for attending. Mayor Ron Littlefield was present and expressed his appreciation to the Council for their service and the importance of their efforts. Mr. Littlefield will continue to make this community one for ALL citizens. The planned homeless campus effort is to keep people from being homeless and to support those working their way out of homelessness; it is an Urban Services Center. The Urban Services Center works with 42 community congregations that help place people in homes in order to get out of homelessness. The Southeast Tennessee Human Resources Agency (SETHRA) contracts with various agencies to transport people with disabilities. They provide over 83,000 trips per year, with 1200 customers in city District 8 alone. Six percent of their service goes for homeless services mostly for Interfaith Homeless Network families, who do not stay at the Community Kitchen. They are required transportation to get to other areas for shelter. Richard Beeland brought a copy of the plan developed by the Mayor's Office. Mayor Littlefield also said that there are synergies that are favorable for the Farmers Market location because there is already a service station there, a repair facility, a hydraulic facility for maintenance of the lifts for wheelchairs and a training operation. The City would also have the ability to train truck drivers and fire truck drivers at the facility. The buses that would be used for this service already provide service to the region. Presently those who

use the services provided by the transportation, wind up waiting all day for service back to their original destination. Individuals cannot wait around at the hospitals all day. The central location would provide drivers, as well as, a place to wait until called to come back and pick up the person. The Mayor asked the MCD Council to attend the City Council committee meeting and the City Council regular meeting to be held on January 29, 2008, in support of this new facility.

Motion to approve the minutes for December 2007 was made, seconded, and passed.

The Emergency Management committee met, but Jill Hindman was unable to attend the meeting. Greg Helms with Hamilton County Emergency Management reported that efforts and planning of identification, sheltering, evacuation and transportation will be made in phases. They have also obtained a special needs population to identify people with disabilities and other functional needs. John Hitchings is the new Emergency Services coordinator for the Red Cross. Having experience in Dade County, Georgia, for several years, he brings a fresh perspective to his position. So far the Red Cross has pre-stocked trailers and 100 other warehouses locally for provisions. They use the same 800 megahertz frequency the local emergency service uses. Jill Hindman offered to arrange disability awareness training for the Red Cross. The Salvation Army also provides some sites for shelter and will be surveyed for access. Pets have also been included in the plans. Bea Lyons reminded Greg that some kind of visual communication for the Deaf and hard of hearing residents during an emergency is needed.

Chris Jackson, Department of Mental Retardation, was in New Hampshire advocating for programs that serve artists with disabilities.

Mary Ann Schenk will attend the Disabilities Days on the Hill to be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, in Nashville.

Jim Queen gave an update report on CARTA; three new vans have been approved. Fourteen vans are committed to each route. Referring to the Mayor's presentation, he suggested that if an individual from Rhea County comes to Chattanooga for a doctor's appointment, that individual may end up sitting in the shelter for hours. With SETHRA they could get a bus to the mall or wherever and get things accomplished instead of sitting and waiting all day for the bus back to Rhea County.

The retreat has been completed by the Mayor's Council on Disability.

The Mayor did request the Council to prepare a resolution in support of the SETHRA proposal. Matt Lea, Liaison for the Mayor's Office, will draft this resolution to be approved by the Mayor's Council on Disability. A letter is being drafted to Chancellor Brown at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga acknowledging the Council's support of the approved course about disabilities.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Katy Jones, Secretary