

Mayor's Council on Disability
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Meeting Minutes
September 08, 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
Jim Queen
Phillip Stevens
Carol Martin
Jill Hindman

Excused Absence:

Carolyn Boyd
Rick Rader

Visitors:

Beth Coleman
Elaine Adams
John Jackson

Gina Turley
Tommy Gates
Jay Piercy, Office of Multicultural Affairs
Kathie Fulgham, Mayor's Office

Mayor's Council on Disability minutes for August 04, 2008, were distributed via email prior to today's meeting; these minutes were approved as prepared and will be placed on the MCD web site.

Phillip Stevens introduced Mignon Allen from Dovetail Consulting, an affiliate with the Georgia Department of Transportation consulting team conducting the Atlanta to Chattanooga high speed ground transportation study; the study is being conducted in conjunction with the GDOT, TDOT, Federal Railroad Administration, and the Federal Highway Administration. She suggested that members of the Mayor's Council on Disability visit the web site to review details of the project: www.atl-chatt.org . "The purpose of the Atlanta-Chattanooga HSGT system is to enhance intercity passenger mobility in northwest Georgia, and part of Tennessee, by expanding passenger transportation capacity, increasing mobility and providing an alternative to highway and air travel in a manner that is safe, reliable, and cost-effective while avoiding, minimizing, and/or mitigating impacts on neighborhoods and the environment." Ms. Allen presented the environmental impact statement, schedule plans, need for study, technologies being considered: Mag-Lev and very high speed rail, and proposed number of station locations connecting Atlanta and Chattanooga. The group identified as the environmental justice group comprise the traditionally transportation, elderly, low income, and disabled who have not always been represented in planning

processes as they should have been. There will be public meetings held during fall 2008 and early 2009 to share project information with citizens. The study area includes 110 miles between Atlanta and Chattanooga, 15 Georgia counties and Hamilton County in Tennessee, and other key cities. I-75 is the main link between the two cities with Highway 27 and US 41 providing additional connectivity; projected population of Atlanta by 2030 will increase from 3.9 million to 7 million, and the economy will also grow and employment will increase from 2.3 million to 4.6 million. Prior to implementing a transportation project, a review of the impact to the environment, to the community and to the archeological and socioeconomic aspects must be assessed. Review of existing data along with detailed analysis of the project will be made to determine specifications such as where stations will be located, how project will operate, type of parcels and rights of way.

This study has been going on for a long time but is now at place where it is in a good position to actually see something built. Purpose and need have been identified; terms have been defined; communities to be served have been named, and benefits of air quality, transportation and mobility have been determined. Now the project is ready for alternative analysis through public meetings to be held early 2009 at which time specific recommendations will be made. Two technologies being considered are magnetic levitation, otherwise known as Mag-Lev and very high speed rail. Mag-Lev runs on electric power from the track to magnets that create magnetic force that lifts and propels the vehicle forward reaching upper speeds of 300 miles per hour. High speed rail runs by an overhead electrical system that has electrical power coming from the top of the train reaching

maximum speed of 220 miles per hour. Review of map reveals alignments and corridors comprising the possible routes for travel. There will be a Lovell Field Station and a downtown Chattanooga Station near the Chattanooga Choo Choo at the intersection of Central Avenue and Main Street.

Funding is key with resources already available for Mag-Lev technology, but not yet readily available for the high speed rail. The technical team will make recommendations to the GDOT concerning the best technology that can move people the quickest with the most cost-effectiveness and providing the highest rider-ship. Comments on the study may be sent by visiting the web site: www.atl-chatt.org .

Kathie Fulgham provided update to Go-Fest plans; event will be held Saturday, October 11, 2008, which is the first day of Hamilton County Schools fall break. Incredible media sponsorship has been lined up with News Channel 9, Chattanooga Times Free Press, Farewell Outdoor (billboard company), Chattanooga.com, WFMC radio, and WTCL-TV45; a story will also appear in "Chattanooga Parent" magazine and in "In the City" publication. Any monies left over from the event will be put towards a new Play Core playground to be built at Warner Park; this will be an all access playground for children of all abilities. The Go-Fest planning committee will meet Wednesday, September 10, at 2:00pm, in the Veranda room at City Hall.

Carol Martin reported on the Career and Education Expo which will be set up in the educational building with most of the service provider agencies participating; four or five employers from local companies will be available to discuss career opportunities with attendees. Colleges will be on

hand to discuss educational programs. "Kids Like You, Kids Like Me", produced by Creative Discovery Museum, Siskin Children's Institute, as well as Kids on the Block will be back this year.

Art Expo is featuring various art forms: pottery, painting, and glasswork to name a few; deadline for artists' submissions is September 15. Go-Fest is free, open to the public; therefore, there will be no tickets. Sandy Booher will contact the Chattanooga Times Free Press about the News-line for the Blind and possibly setting up a table with information about this news service; Chattanooga is one of the few cities with this service available for citizens who are blind.

Jim Queen reported on CARTA Care-A-Van updates. Transportation for July 2008 exceeded 200 trips as compared with previous July; in two years CARTA has filled over 700 additional requests for transportation without adding extra service on the road. They continue to search for funding to subsidize fares instead of increasing costs to the riders.

Jill Hindman reported that the Developmental Disabilities Council is putting out an RFP for communities to begin access to dental health services; she is hoping that there will be interest in the grant opportunity here in Chattanooga. Also the Home Visit-ability project is starting to recruit builders, architects, and real estate agents to become involved; Easy Living Homes is the organization that will host a series of informational meetings across the state over the next six months. More details on these meetings will be provided as they become available.

Announcements:

Carmike Cinemas near Northgate Mall will be showing another open-captioned movie, "Mamma Mia" on September 21 and 22, with show times at 4:00pm and 7:00pm both days.

Parks and Recreation Activities:

Soccer program begins September 13 for kids and young adults ages 8-18 years

Chip adaptive golf program starts September 20 with two sessions: one for individuals with cognitive and intellectual disabilities and the other for persons with physical disabilities

Adaptive cycling program begins September 29

Health Care Rally: October 06, 2008, Nashville, TN

Note: Choo Choo has finally renovated the restrooms in their facility and has made them more accessible than when the Mayor's Council on Disability held the ADA Celebration there several years ago.

October meeting will be held Monday, October 06, 2008, 3:00-4:30pm, at the DRC.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Katye Jones, Secretary
Mayor's Council on Disability