

Mayor's Council on Disability
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Meeting Minutes
November 05, 2007

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
Jill Hindman
Jim Queen
Dr. Rick Rader
Carol Martin
Phillip Stevens
Tommy Gates

Karl Epperson
Matt Lea, Special Assistant to the Mayor, City of
Chattanooga

Sandy began the meeting with the presentation on the SMART BUS given by Kyle Lomax, Sales Director for Clever Devices in Indianapolis, IN.; Kirk Shore, Director of the ITS System at CARTA and Tom Duggan, Executive Director of CARTA were also present. Clever Devices will be placing the announcement and video accessibility items on the CARTA buses as per contract. ITS stands for Intelligence Transportation Systems and represents the best available technology to enhance accessibility and service for all of our community. ITS is to identify, develop, and integrate ITS projects that will enable CARTA and other participating agencies to improve safety, efficiency and effectiveness of services and to target improvement of the mobility and accessibility of current and future transit users. ITS has advanced scheduling tools for fixed route transit services, uses trapeze software, and also contains advanced turn GIS map for more accurate scheduling showing mileage, speed limits and direction of travel flow. A new wireless fare box system will take credit cards, smart cards and will access security. A data plan with cellular provider allows the bus to talk to CARTA headquarters; thus free wireless internet will be available on every bus.

Dynamic message signs will be placed at key stops allowing us to know where the bus is and how fast it's traveling and to predict where the bus will be at a certain stop. Advanced Traveler Information System includes web site, 20-character Dynamic message signs that read out stops on every route. The project is still in the design stage; we're just developing

an A D A compliant website that allows the information to be read by text readers. A tool to be used for internal monitoring is called the A V M, automatic vehicle monitoring; every bus will have a small computer network just like your car. Bus service is part of the homeland security plan here in Chattanooga; so, the system can share vehicle locations in real time with all other emergency services for coordination in a crisis situation. Kyle shared voice samples along with text messages; male and female voices will be used. Company is currently working on the technology for closed captioning for public service announcements. Presentation continued with detailed description of technical aspects of the project. Initial trials will start about April 2008 with actual production system ready in June 2008.

Council members suggested that when the system is operational, MCD members and CARTA Care-a-Van Council should be allowed to test both audio and visual aspects of the system.

Greg Helms, Lead Planner in Emergency Management, from the Hamilton County Emergency Services described the county's plan for evacuation and emergency. Emergency Management is the facilitation and coordination of the response to disasters or emergency events. They work with the community, different jurisdictions, City of Chattanooga, fire and police departments, Red Bank, Soddy Daisy, volunteer fire departments and the ten-county Homeland Security district as well as state and federal governments, Salvation Army, Red Cross, and CARTA. Self preparedness is encouraged with enough provisions in the home so that persons can exist on their own for 72 hours. People with disabilities, people incarcerated in prisons, people with

cultural differences, people with medical conditions, how do we prepare for these groups? Hamilton County Emergency Services wants to work with the Mayor's Council on Disability because they need help writing the plan. There is need to identify at least four shelters with capacity of 100 to 200 people that are A D A compliant; the services invites participation from people with disabilities to assist with surveying shelters to ensure accessibility. Seven areas for planning are mentioned: identification and location of population, training of first responders, first notification of event, transport and shelters, communication needs, recovery, evaluation and implementation. After-action reports would be made to make improvements. The goal is to create an action plan, one that's actionable but fairly simple. The Hamilton County Emergency Operations Plan is 2,000 pages long; it's huge. We want sheets, simple check-lists, call down lists, something that is easy to manage.

Greg described the qualifying criteria that takes an incident and qualifies it as an emergency via the incident command system that is used by local first responders. Matt Lea clarified that when there are more than 20 people involved in a particular area, the city begins bringing out the masses and set up the IT Command Center on Amnicola highway that is the Mayor's representative.

Following the two major presentations, Chairperson Booher continued the meeting addressing each item on the agenda. Since the secretary was absent minutes for the October meeting will be reviewed at the December meeting of the Council.

A second retreat session for Council members will be held immediately following today's meeting.

Jill reminded everyone of the Town Hall meeting with Representative JoAnne Favors scheduled for Friday, November 09, 9:00am until 12:30pm at UTC Student Center. Let Jill know if you wish to participate since space is limited.

Go!Fest report indicated that it was a big success with great turnout, good place, and zoo a great venue for this event. For next year, Darde Long at the Zoo will become the organizer of Go!Fest with the Mayor's Council on Disability handling most of the marketing and financial arrangements.

Announcements included mention of a Town Hall meeting at Orange Grove Center with the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Mental Retardation on November 06, 7:00-9:00pm. Dr. Rader announced that UTC finally has approved a course for undergraduates on disabilities after three years of work on the project. The course will be part of the general education requirements for students for now.

Bea Lyons shared the number of contacts made to the MCD web site since the October meeting. Of the seven or eight contacts made, the one from the Nashville family attending a concert at the Memorial Auditorium and receiving quality reasonable accommodations was exciting; it was thrilling to know that someone from out-of-town can come into the city and receive access...a very positive happening. A second important communication across the web site is the announcement of the new equipment, the public access video phone (PAV); this technology is being used all across the U. S. instead of the old TTY systems that the Deaf

community uses for 911. this public video phone can be set up in public places such as the airport, post office, any major public facility, hotels, shopping malls, schools, travel plazas, train and bus stations, sport parks, bowling alleys, government buildings, hospitals, amusement parks, coffee houses, etc. where Deaf people can come and make phone calls more easily.

The next MCD meeting will be held Monday, December 03, 3:00-4:30pm, at the DRC; a third retreat session for MCD members will follow the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bea Lyons, Vice Chair.