

**Minutes
Mayor's Council on Disability
June 4, 2007**

**Sandra Booher, Chairperson
Bea Lyons, Vice-Chair
Katy Jones, Secretary
Jill Hindman, Parliamentarian**

Council Members Present:

**Sandra Booher
Katy Jones
Rick Rader
Jill Hindman
Virginia Piper**

May minutes were read and approved

Discussion was held about the Go-Fest! as to whether or not it should be partnered with the Culture Fest. The Office of Multi-cultural Affairs is working with the Mayor's office to determine the final date of Go-Fest!.

The Council is waiting to receive response from the Mayor's office regarding names of the new nominees to the Council.

Amanda Stofan, from the Office of Multicultural Affairs, is working on a resource guide for City

employees to utilize in planning events so they can consider accessibility issues, parking and etc. making the events easier for the disabled to attend.

The Council will work with the Mayor's office to draft a letter to Jennifer Nichols and Karl Epperson for their fine service as members of the Council.

Overview of the Stigma Project was given by Dr. Rick Rader. The basic idea is to try to remove stigma in terms of disability and other minority groups who have to deal with stigmas on a daily basis. We are joining forces with Cheryl Dartly who lives in Chicago and is the coordinator for the Chicago area. Dr. Rader is the coordinator here in Chattanooga. We are now in the process of trying to get funding to start programs to eliminate stigma towards people with disability particularly.

Jill Hindman reported that the Governor of Tennessee just requested from the State Legislature 1.7 million dollars to renovate the restrooms at the Capital building in Nashville.

Jim Queen was not present to give any discussion on the National Conference on Transit about using Firefighters as CARE-A-VAN drivers.

Virginia Piper reported that the Chamber of Commerce has an education initiative they are spearheading. Upon reading over the proposal, Virginia spoke with Kay Andrews, because there was nothing in the proposal dealing with students with disabilities specifically and preparation of the transition when they leave high school. Sandra Booher pointed out there is another side to the whole spectrum of transitioning of high school students with disabilities to vocational settings. It is healthcare transitioning that involves moving from care of a pediatric physician to care by adult physicians.

July 13th and 14th the Southeastern Autism Symposium will be held at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee.

June 19th will be the Siblings for Kids with Special Needs celebration at Coolidge Park from 5:30 to 8:45.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Katye Jones, Secretary.

