

**ADA Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2010**

This meeting of the Jackson ADA Advisory Council was held at the Hood Building on President Street. This was a joint meeting of both the ADA Advisory Council and the JATRAM Advisory Council. Present at today's meeting were members of both councils: Lee Cole, Chairperson, ADA Advisory Council; Sam Gleese, City ADA Coordinator; Robert Joseph, Jason Bunch, Napoleon Campbell, Namon Hulitt, Karen Robinson, Jan Hawthorne, Dewone Banks, Jerri Walton, Christy Dunaway, Dr. Aborn Haymond and Dr. Scott Crawford, Chairperson, JATRAM Advisory Council. Guests were: Kay Hardage. Ex-officio members representing the City today were: Corinne Fox, Department of Planning and Development; Traci Brent, Transit Services Division; Sam Tensley, JATRAM General Manager-PTM; Azande Williams, Legal Department; and Beth Hamilton, Mayor's office.

- I. Lee called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. A quorum was present. Introductions were made.

- II. Lee remarked that this was a joint meeting of both the ADA Advisory Council and the JATRAM Advisory Council so that both could have questions answered by the Legal Department. She then recognized Ms. Williams.
 - a. Ms. Williams began by saying that she would not be able to discuss specifics of the consent decree entered into by the plaintiffs and the defendants on the recent lawsuit. She did comment that all sides were communicating well. They have recently received the monitoring report and per instructions from Department of Justice (DOJ) had appointed a transportation accessibility coordinator within the Department of Planning and Development. This position will be filled by Traci Brent who met all of the criteria. This appointment was approved by the Justice Department. Ms. Williams opened the floor for questions. Dr. Scott Crawford began by stating that he and Lee had sat in on a conference call regarding the monitors report last week. He wanted to know if we were at liberty to discuss capacity constraints and how to resolve issues regarding the capacity constraints. Ms. Williams reminded him that the consent decree was confidential and that the City had just provided a response to DOJ regarding the monitors report and that they had not received a reply yet. Therefore, she will not discuss it with this group. Lee asked what this group could do to help the City and support them in their compliance and implementation of the Decree. Ms. Williams responded that when the public service announcements came out, to please encourage the ridership to speak out. But, she reiterated that the final report had not been delivered. Kay Hardage, the plaintiff's attorney with Disability Rights of Mississippi, stated that she had spoken with David Knight at DOJ this morning and he had informed her he did not intend for the report to be confidential. The

Monitor is **not** allowed to release the report or discuss its findings, but the plaintiffs and defendants apparently can. Ms. Williams was not privy to that conversation this morning and until the office of the City Attorney speaks with DOJ and indicates to them that the report can be discussed, she would not discuss it.

- b. Ms. Williams did say that she could share the City's budget for FY 2011 because it had been approved. The budget indicates that there are plans to buy four (4) new Handilift buses, but no new fixed route buses. Corinne made the comment that they had done everything they could to comply with the consent decree with the funds they had in the budget. It stands to reason that if there are new Handilift buses and they are to comply with next day service, they will have to hire more drivers.
- c. Napoleon asked if the City had been meeting the deadlines imposed by DOJ. The JATRAN Policy and procedures Manual had not yet been approved, but it had been reviewed by DOJ and returned to the City with comments. When it is finalized it will be sent to every rider. DOJ was aware of any deadlines not met and had approved an extension.
- d. Finally, Ms. Williams stated that all future inquiries, questions and comments regarding ADA transportation issues could, and should be directed to Traci Brent since she's the accessibility coordinator. Christy asked Traci if she wanted questions ahead of time. Traci responded that she would do her best to answer any questions we had at meetings, but if she could get them earlier than that it would ensure that she had an answer. There were no further questions for the Legal Department.

III. Returning to Old Business

- a. Lee stated that she wanted this Council to make a formal recommendation to the City that they appoint Namon Hulitt as an official member of the Council, representing AARP, as he never misses a meeting. Scott made this motion, Jan seconded and it carried unanimously. Christy read the minutes from the August and the September meetings. Jan motioned to approve, Karen seconded and motion carried.
- b. Sam reported that the IT Department was still making some changes to the website. They will be purchasing reader software called JAWS in order to test the system for people with visual impairments.
- c. City's Transition Plan – Sam reported there was a meeting last week between Planning and Development, MDOT, FHA and others to discuss sidewalks, streets and curb cuts. A consultant had been hired to develop an accessibility report on all facilities. Corinne Fox stated that they hoped to have the Plan ready very soon. Christy asked when this Council could see it and review it. She was told that the City would share the plan with this Council after it had been reviewed and approved. Christy insisted that the Council be allowed to have input into the Plan and that we have an opportunity for review and feedback before it is approved by the City. Sam told Christy that he would ensure this took place.

- d. Scott Crawford inquired about the recent curb ramps constructed on Hanging Moss Rd. that are either incorrect, go nowhere or are attached to sidewalks that are in such disrepair as to be un-navigable. He submitted a written report to the City weeks ago. Napoleon reiterated to the City representatives present today that the City really needs to start seeking our input before making decisions (and costly mistakes) regarding the disability community in Jackson.
- e. Lee requested that Sam invite Thelman Boyd to come back to the Council and provide an update on the emergency services plan.
- f. Incorrect bus stop at Virginia College – the Council has been told that this bus stop was built by Virginia College without the City’s knowledge or input and therefore they are responsible for making the necessary changes.
- g. Traci Brent with the Transit Services Division reported that the City released a Request for Proposal on 09/23/2010 for the software and hardware needed to update the bus systems. The proposals are due 10/19/2010. She will keep us updated.

It was agreed that the JATRAN Advisory Council would not meet next week because they have covered everything in today’s meeting. The next meeting of the ADA Advisory Council is Wednesday, November 3, 2010. There being no further business, this meeting was adjourned.

These minutes were prepared by Christy Dunaway and approved at the November 3, 2010 meeting.