

**ADA Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2012**

The Jackson ADA Advisory Council meeting was held at the Hood Bldg. Members present: Ms. Lee Cole (ADA Council Chairperson, Ward 2); Rev. Sam Gleese (City ADA Coordinator); Mr. Theo Letman (JATTRAN's General Manager); Mr. Dewayne Cheatham (JATTRAN's Head of Operations); Ms. Karen Robinson (JATTRAN Handilift Dispatcher); Deputy Chief Johnnie L. McDonald (J.F.D.); Ms. Shellie Ziegler (MS Library for the Blind); Ms. Ollie Lester (Addie McBryde Rehab Center for the Blind); Ms. Christy Dunaway (LIFE of Mississippi); Mr. Rick Seavey (J.P.D.); Ms. Judy Sikes (Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities); Mr. Jason Bunch, (Ward 4); Ms. Lynn Hill (Ward 1); Mr. Desman Thomas (Ward 3); Mr. Antonio Wright (MACE); Ms. Pam Dollar (Executive Director of the Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities); Mr. Eric Welmer; Mr. Nathaniel Robinson (JATTRAN Maintenance Director); Ms. Swannie Wilson (JATTRAN Handilift Program Manager); and Ms. Evelyn Pittman (City Transit Services).

Call to Order

- I. Chairperson Lee Cole called the meeting of the ADA Advisory Council to order at 1:05 p.m.
- II. Members and guests were introduced. Minutes of the September Advisory Council were read by Christy Dunaway.

Approval of Minutes

- III. Motion to accept the minutes with the following corrections: Len Jefferson JPD to JSU, Seevey to Seavey, ARM to ATM, ant to and, nest to next and the Senior Health and Wellness Fair is 10/23 not 10/24. Made by Wright, 2nd by McDonald, Minutes were approved.

Updates

- IV. Sam Gleese: The Job Fair was a success and took a lot of people working together to make it happen. JATTRAN assisted in getting persons to the Medical Mall from the Opportunity Center. There were a wide variety of employers, colleges, universities, and trade schools, a job readiness summit targeting high school students endanger of dropping out. The challenge was parking. Four buses were used from Client Tours to shuttle persons from Farmers Market and old Pepsi lots to the Mall. All the high schools and MSB were represented along with many persons with disabilities. We are still working on the ADA Transition Plan. The Police Department is to report on today. Mr. Seavey indicated that the report was not forwarded by Mr. Horton. For discussion: Scott Crawford reported an incident where he was stopped by a female police officer for riding his chair in the street on Meadowbrook. Although there is a sidewalk in the area, it is not wheelchair accessible. Mr. Seavey commented the department has been trained and is aware of the sidewalks but encourages pedestrians to use sidewalks when possible and ride facing oncoming traffic. Ms. Dunaway stated that all policemen have been thoroughly trained to assist persons with disabilities especially as they are more visible in our culture and as they transition from nursing homes back into the community. Mr. Seavey and other officers were given a week long crisis intervention training in Memphis to deal with mental health. Next month, the Police Department and Personnel will present their plan.
- V. Mayor Johnson issued a proclamation for Disabilities Awareness Month. Lee Cole received the proclamation at City Council as Chairperson of the ADA Advisory Council. Ms. Dunaway read the proclamation during the meeting.

- VI. Sam Gleese: Disability Awareness Day is on October 30th. We are working with Public Relations to get media coverage. We will have vendors, bankers, medical suppliers and entertainment from start to finish. There will be banners at each mall entrance announcing the event. Please take some fliers and cards to pass out. JATTRAN has fliers on all of its buses. Mr. Thomas and Ms. Dunaway will work to get the public schools involved.
- VII. Dr. Scott Crawford: I saw in the Fixed Route Advisory notes that JATTRAN has a new policy regarding kneeling the buses. They will kneel upon request. Is that correct? Theo Letman researched and determined that the kneel is used for wheelchair ramp, the elderly and those who request it. That is the regulations we are following. Crawford is troubled greatly that the bus operators see people with gate problems, deformed legs, older adults and they do not kneel the bus automatically.
- VIII. Lee Cole: With the upcoming election, if the disability community has problems with the voting machines, please inform the election board and ADA coordinator. It is important that the precincts have proper working machines available on Election Day.
- IX. Theo Letman introduced Ms. Swannie Wilson hired as the new program manager for Handilift. Her role is to focus on paratransit.
- X. Swannie Wilson: I'm from Houston Texas and have 15 years in the transit industry, a Master's in Transportation Planning, I'm very familiar with ADA regulations, a computer person and happy to serve. I'm in the dispatch office most of the time during my training. My direct line is 601-326-5405 or dispatch, 601-948-5438 or office, 601-948-7140.
- XI. Nathaniel Robinson and Eric Welmer brought a new bus with the four wheelchair positions for the Council to see. All four positions can be in the rear of the bus or chairs can be placed behind the driver. We appreciate any feedback from the members.
- XII. Evelyn Pittman: We are looking to purchase new paratransit buses in this fiscal year which just started in October. Your feedback will help determine if this bus is sufficient or we need to look for something else.
- XIII. Judy Sikes: The coalition ordered some posters for this month Disability Awareness. Please call if you would like them.

Announcements/Calendar of Events

- 10/23/12 Senior Health and Wellness Fair at the Convention Center
- 10/27/12 9:00 LIFE's Bridging the Gap Walk/Run in Vicksburg
- 10/30/12 2nd Annual Disabilities Awareness Day at the Medical Mall
- 11/06/12 Presidential Election
- 11/9-10/12 MSB is celebrating 165 years Homecoming Weekend

Next Meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 7, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. 1st floor conference room of the Hood Bldg.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

These Minutes were submitted by Ms. Ollie Lester and approved at the November 7, 2012, monthly meeting of the Council.