

**City of Jackson Mayor's ADA Advisory Council
Wednesday, August 7, 2013
Council Meeting Minutes**

This meeting was held in the first floor conference room at the Hood Building located across from City Hall in downtown Jackson. Members present: Mr. Jason Bunch, (Ward 4); Ms. Lee Cole (ADA Council Chairperson, Ward 2); Dr. Scott Crawford, (Ward 7); Dr. Christy Dunaway, (LIFE of MS); Mr. Sam Gleese, (City ADA Coordinator); Miss Jan Hawthorne, (MS School f/t Blind); Ms. Lynn Hill, (Ward 1); Ms. Ollie Lester, (Addie McBryde Center); Ms. Jacqueline Washington, (Ward 5); Ms. Christine Welch, (JATRAM); Ms. Shellie Zeigler, (MS Library Commission); Others in attendance: Mr. Carl Allen, (City of Jackson); Mr. Bul Mabil, (MDOT); Mr. Charles Husband, (MDOT); Ms. Evelyn Pittman (COJ transit Service); Eileen Schwartz, (MDOT); Ms. Kimmie Lockett, (JATRAM Handilift); Commander Brady L. Hightower, (COJ Police Dept.); Ms. Jean McKinney, Mr. Elvin Tobin, (JATRAM General Manager)

I. Call to Order - Chairperson Cole called the meeting of the ADA Advisory Council to order at 1:05 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes – The minutes of the May and June meetings were read by Ollie Lester. Motion to approve made by Mr. Thomas, 2nd by Ms. Hill. Minutes approved.

III. Updates – Ms. Cole asked for comments regarding the transportation conference from Ms. Schwartz and Mr. Husband. Dr. Dunaway and Dr. Crawford talked about their session they presented at the conference. They spoke about the concerns the disability community will have regarding the transportation problems getting to the nearest places to obtain voter's identification cards. Many places where the registrations will be taking place are not assessable by transportation. Mr. Husband commented that MDOT Public Transportation will be working with the Attorney General office to ensure transportation will be made available to the elderly and the

disable residents to get to and from the places identified as to where they will have to obtain their voters' identification cards.

Dr. Dunaway asked if the recommendation made to the Mayor that The City of Jackson ADA Coordinator should be made aware of all new housing developments planned within the city, so that he may have the opportunity to ensure compliance with the ADA and Fair Housing laws and meet with developers to discuss and learn of the availability of accessible and affordable housing options for people with disabilities residing in Jackson been approved. Mr. Gleese was not at the June Meeting and just learned of this recommendation. Ms. Cole said that we should invite some developers to future meetings to discuss assessable housing. Mr. Allen has a developer who is willing to speak on these issues.

Ms. Cole informed and reminded us of the Position Paper that the council gave to Mayor Johnson of our concerns. This information is available upon request. This paper was given to the new mayor and Councilmen. The Mayor has been invited to come to a meeting when he is available.

Ms. Lester voiced her concerns of educating the new Mayor on inclusion. The disabled community is fighting to have equal rights.

Mr. Gleese added that the Mayor will have a supportive ear to disability rights. He has the position paper.

Miss Hawthorne requested clarification regarding the review of membership. Mr. Gleese said that the Council adopted the by-laws and there is a list of committee members but it was never signed. The by-laws will go to the new Mayor.

IV. New Business – Ms. Cole mention the handicapped parking issue being proposed by the city. Dr. Crawford explained that there is an application you can download on the smartphone that will allow you to submit pictures of a vehicle parking in a handicap parking space illegally. The pictures should include: the handicap space, rear of the vehicle showing the tag and dashboard showing no visible handicap plaque. The pictures are uploaded to the police dept. and they will

issue a fine. Dr. Dunaway added there needs to be a police dept. willing to participate in the web program. Commander Hightower asked if the Council is planning to make this proposal to the City? He recommended that we write the proposal, he would take it to the new Chief who is willing to sit down for a discussion with the Council.

Mr. Gleese continued the discussion of the Americans with disabilities Act. Title 1 Employment, the ADA does not guarantee a job for a person with a disability but the employer gives equal consideration for a job if the person meets the qualifications. Congressman Greg Harper of MS is leading an effort to eliminate paying sub-minimal wages to persons with disabilities. Last week, The Senate passed through the Health Committee, the Rehab Reauthorization under the Work enforcement Investment Act legislation that will permit paying less than minimal wage to persons with disabilities when the ADA is fighting against discrimination. Also, the Reauthorization Act will pull the Dept. of rehab Services from education to labor: the independent living program for older person from education to health and human services. We need to contact our legislators about this Act. Senate 1356 is the Bill.

Mr. Bunch asked how the Bill will affect disabled persons who worked here in Jackson. Dr. Dunaway replied that the Bill could have a positive effect. It means that employees will make minimal wages.

Ms. Cole wants to keep the legislative issues on the agenda for our information. She then introduced the new General Manager of JATRAN, Mr. Elvin Tobin.

Mr. Tobin stated he is excited to be in service to us and pledge his commitment to work with this Council. He has been with JATRAN for two month and has attended the Transportation Summit, Handilift Committee and now the Advisory Council meetings. He comes from Atlanta, GA by way of South Carolina with 27 years of experience working both fixed route and paratransit services. He prefers working with the smaller systems because he is "hands-On."

Ms. Cole announced that Ms. Wilson is no longer with Handilift; that Kimmie Lockett is taking some of those responsibilities.

V. Announcements/Calendar of Events

09/18/13 – The Handlift committee Meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Hood Building

10/23/13 – the ADA Disability Awareness Day at the Metro Center Upper Level, Center Court

10/30/13 – The Senior Health Fair

11/05/13 – The Mayor’s Citywide Senior Appreciation Day

VI. The next meeting will be held on September 4, 2013 at 1:00 pm in the Hood Building.

VII. Adjournment – There being no further business, Ms. Cole entertained a motion to adjourn, Dr. Dunaway made the motion, seconded by Ms. Hill and the motion carried.

These Minutes were written by Ollie Lester, from the Addie McBryde Center and approved at the September 2013