City of Jackson Mayor's ADA Advisory Council
Wednesday, October 2, 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); Mr. Sam Gleese (ADA Coordinator COJ): Commander Hightower, (COJ Police Dept.): Ms. Ollie Lester, (Addie McBryde Center): Mr. Desmeon Thomas, (Ward 3): Ms. Shellie Zeigler, (MS Library Commission); Others in attendance: Mr. Carl Allen, (City of Jackson); Mr. Charles Husband, (MDOT); Ms. Jean McKinney, (Ward 2): Evelyn Pittman, (COJ Transit Service): Ms. Janice Yancy, (MDOT): Mr. Louis Armstrong, (COJ): Mr. John Chaplain.

I. Call to Order – Ms. Cole, chairperson called the meeting of the ADA Advisory Council to order at 1:00 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes – The minutes were not available. They will be approved at the November Meeting.

III. Old Business – Ms. Cole recalled a time when persons wanted a center for persons with disabilities in the City of Jackson. During the Mayoral Election, the topic resurfaced. This Council supports the ADA which is inclusion. We want to provide the Mayor some feedback on this concept. We want to address parking mobility, the ADA Act, and a formal complaint made by Dr. Crawford regarding the bus platform built on Frontage Road near Save-a-Lot.

Mr. Gleese said that the idea of a separate center for persons with disabilities started over 12 years ago. The City has a number of senior centers. Money is needed to repair the streets and sidewalks not to build or refurbish a structure just for persons with a disability. The community centers are to be inclusive. We have to learn what goes on at the individual centers, identify persons that want to go to the centers, and make the adjustments for the person to participate.

Mr. Armstrong reported that there are seven senior centers in Jackson. Originally, they were multipurpose centers but because of the funding stream, the programs are geared to person 55 and older. Activities include: bingo, Bible study, line dancing, speakers, computer classes and arts and crafts which items are sold and the funds used to take trips. Transportation is provided for participants as well as persons with disabilities may call for rides to appointments.

Ms. Cole is concern about how the centers are marketed to enhance existing services that would include persons with disabilities.

Ms. Lester added the importance of educating the centers and providing adaptive games, cards, low vision items to make inclusion easier for persons with disabilities.

Mr. Gleese feels that we need to be aware, for those persons wanting a separate center, what do they want to take place at the center and there are some families that need adult daycare. The centers are not design for that purpose.

Mr. Thomas added, the centers need more arts and crafts and teach money management. He wants to reach the younger person; 21 and older who are disabled.

Mr. Chaplain commented that community centers need to invest in computer technology such as Drag 'n Dictate or Zoomtext, facilitate independence, how to do a resume or online banking, attendant care.

Mr. Thomas told of a Pro Hill Grant through LIFE where an accessible gym is being created to give people an opportunity to work-out and get some health information. MACE is providing sports involvement.

Ms. Cole wants us to form a subcommittee to draw up plans to present to the Mayor.

Mr. Husband added that transportation is a key component to the success of programs at the centers. While there is transportation for persons 55 and older, we will have to find a means to get younger persons to the centers. MDOT is interested in partnering with JATRAN and the City.

Mr. Armstrong said that there has been some discussion on providing evening and Sunday transportation services from the Mayor's office.

Parking Mobility: Mr. Gleese led the discussion of the program where persons with disabilities could takes pictures of persons violating handicap parking, email it to the Police Dept. and the Dept. would issue citations. Commander Hightower would take the proposal to the Chief. Research showed this program starting in Texas. They determined that

Jackson was a small market. This Council would need some education. Some drawbacks were the $200 charged for a violation vs. 3-$500 in other states. Second step is to see how the laws of Jackson are structured so that the program can operate. The cost for the program for six months is over $166,000.

Commander Hightower reminded us of the time when the Police Dept. had Parking Enforcement Officers who enforced handicapped parking. If Parking Mobility can't work then this program can be reinstated. Com. Hightower will speak to the Dept.

Ms. Cole and Mr. Gleese spoke of Dr. Crawford's complaint about the bus ramp. He surmised that the contractor measured the ramp then built it too high and the platform was too short... the ramp is too steep for wheelchair to enter or exit. The length of the platform should allow for two buses to park. This location is Frontage Road and Briarwood at Save-a-Lot. The contractors know the specifications but continues to error. How do we stop this problem from happening?

IV. Announcements/Calendar of Events
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
11/06/13 – The ADA Advisory council Meeting
11/08/13 – The MSB Homecoming
11/20/13 – JATRAN Handilift Advisory Committee Meeting

VI. The next meeting will be held on November 6, 2013 at 1:00 pm in the Hood Building.

VII. Adjournment – There being no further business, Cole entertained a motion to adjourn, Mr. Armstrong made the motion, seconded by Mr. Thomas and the motion carried at 2:50 p.m. These Minutes were recorded by Ms. Ollie Lester of the Addie McBryde Center and approved at the November Meeting.