

## **ADA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes September 1, 2010**

This meeting of the Jackson ADA Advisory Council was held at the Hood Building on President Street. Present at today's meeting were members: Lee Cole, Chairperson; Sam Gleese, City ADA Coordinator; Robert Joseph, Jason Bunch, Napoleon Campbell, Namon Hulitt and Dr. Scott Crawford. Others were: Ms. Mary J. Bates of the MILES Corporation, Mr. Bennie Hopkins with Planning and Development and Ms. Gwen Moore with Human and Cultural Services.

Lee called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. It was determined that there was not a quorum for voting purposes, but the meeting would proceed. The Minutes of the last meeting was not available. They will need to be approved at next month's meeting. In Christy Dunaway's absence, Mr. Hulitt and Scott Crawford offered to take notes. Those notes are below:

There was a presentation by Mary J Bates of MILES (More Independent Lifestyles Enrichment Services) Corporation. She is getting a grant up and running to assist people with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) and Spinal Cord Injuries (SCI) in getting accessible transportation in the Jackson METRO area, including all of Rankin, Hinds, and Madison Counties. They intend to serve older adults as well, and people with other neurological conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

We recommended that she get in touch with Charles Carr at MDOT and the people at the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District to make sure that her services are well-coordinated amongst the various agencies also providing transportation in the area. This is not just good common sense but a requirement for most if not all federal transportation grants.

Ms. Gwen Moore from the Dept. of Human and Cultural Services was present to discuss the City of Jackson Emergency Plan. She indicated that the Department of Human and Cultural Services is responsible for one component of the overall plan. This component includes "shelters" that will be available to the disabled community. The Department is also responsible for transporting individuals (evacuees). As Mr. Boyd indicated in the August presentation that the overall plan is being updated.

Lee Cole brought up in old business the self-evaluation and transition plan. Sam said he was unsuccessful in getting in touch with the people helping him with this, and the private contractor overseeing some of the surveys. In short, we have no further information since last month when the same issue came up.

It is now 3 full years since Christy and Scott filed a Title II Administrative Complaint with the Department of Justice for not having implemented the Americans with Disabilities Act, including the Self-Evaluation and Transition plans. Even if one were to ignore the seventeen

years after the passing of the ADA when the complaint was filed, the City has still taken longer than the 2-1/2 years they had originally (the plan was to have been completed by July, 1992).

Despite assurances made last fall, the City did not consult anyone on the ADA Council regarding new construction along State Street from Woodrow Wilson to Seneca through Fondren. Scott warned the City that they should take care to ensure that all new sidewalks and curb ramps meet ADA Accessibility Guidelines, and once again urged them to consult people on the ADA Council for input before making costly mistakes.

Napoleon brought up a complaint he heard from a friend with low vision who endured an attempted robbery. The friend allegedly had a hard time convincing the police officer that this was a serious issue and we were told that the officer declined to give the person a ride home, despite being worried about their safety. The Council urged Mr. Campbell to tell his friend to file a complaint with the Police Department and with Reverend Gleese right away, because formal documentation will be necessary to follow-up on these complaints.

The assistant director of Planning and Development Bennie Hopkins said that the poorly constructed bus stop at Virginia College was done by them without public permits. He said that it will be put on a list of bus stops to be fixed and/or upgraded in next year's fiscal year.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 6, 2010.

These Minutes were approved at the October 6, 2010 meeting.