***Minutes of the Meeting of the Mayor’s Disability Council***

*Monday, November 4, 2024; 3:00PM Mayor’s Conference Rm*

**~Members Present:** Jose Morales,Natalie Alden,Barbara Brown, Dan O’Connor, Ray Pringle, Anida Pollo, Denise Torres & Stephanie Young

**~Ad Hoc Members Present:** Lou Anne Hasty (Career Source), Amy Valentine & Rebecca Scissors (DCPS) Megan Hyman (Brooks Rehab), Mia Johnson (JTA), Jim Neddo (MV), Tonja Ferrell (Public Library) & Gonza Gonzague (VR)

**~Staff Members Present:** Kara Tucker, Lois Smokes, Matthew Jackson & Tereese Goodloe

**~Public Guest Present:** Shiana Barbosa

Meeting started at 3:01 pm by Chair Jose Morales and opened with…

* **Welcome and Introduction**
  + A total of 8 members present (Quorum), 7 Ad Hoc members present, and 4 Staff members present.
* **Pledge of Allegiance**
  + All in attendance
* **Parliamentarian** 
  + Briefing by Ray Pringle
* **Vote to Approve Minutes** 
  + MOVED BY: Ray Pringle, TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM: October 1, 2024. SECOND BY: Natalie Alden.
* **Public Comment** (speaker cards) – Shiana Barbosa
  + Retired Marine, lost everything when she was 18 years old, grew up as a ward of the state in Jacksonville, Florida, was on the Maury Povich Show when she was 16 years old, was interviewed by Donna Deegan’s friend, because she was on the Maurie Povich Show, Tillie Fowler gave her a nomination to the US Naval Academy. Suffered a brain injury after being struck by a drunk driver. Started a program for children with disabilities, has a non-profit called FSA Recs. States she’s been begging the mayor to attend the 3D Art Wall Reveal ribbon cutting ceremony at FSA Recs on November 22nd.
    - Jose Morales & Dan O’Connor states they will try to make it to the Ribbon Cutting on November 22nd
* **Announcements: Disabled Services** – Chief Kara Tucker
  + **December Meeting:** Tuesday**,** December 3rd, Main Library, Multipurpose Conference Center, going back to the first Tuesday
    - If you want to do a potluck let us know
  + Made it through 3 hurricanes, last one (Hurricane Milton) there was an article in the Florida Times Union regarding partnership with Disabled Services and Center for Independent Living on effective communication with Amy and Brooke ***(copy of the Article attached)***
  + Buddy Walk, October 12, Jax Beach – well attended
  + White Cane Safety Day Walk in partnership with CIL and other agencies ***(Jose will talk about)***
    - Jose Morales: *Walk was amazing, very successful, thank you to everybody who participated, we talked about it in other committee meetings with great feedback – sidewalks are an issue (top priority for next year)*
  + Dinner with Bill on October 19th at the Arc Jax– several Board members were in attendance
  + Proclamation for Employment and Disability Awareness Month
  + At this meeting we will do nominations for Chair & Vice Chair
    - Will do nominations at the end of meeting
* **Old Business/New Business:** 
  + November 7th – FRC Florida Council for the Blind – it’s a public meeting so any part of it you can attend but the Public Forum part is from 5pm – 6pm
    - Gregory Grant and Kara Tucker will talk about the Entrepreneurship Program
  + November 8th – NFB, the council will be represented
  + All Subcommittees put in your reports of all the work you’ve put in for annual reports
  + November 16th - 2nd anniversary of Bitty & Beau’s
  + November 20th - Family Care Council meeting
  + December 2nd – Connecting the Dots conference
  + FSA Rec’s partnering with other non-profits to deliver over 200 Thanksgiving meals
  + CIL will give out Amazon donated items, Tuesday, 11/5 – Thursday 11/7
* **Subcommittee Reports/update (5 minutes)**
  + **LEAPSC Subcommittee – Natalie Alden**
    - Several things had to be tabled, waiting on General Council & getting an Attorney
    - Education: Resource Night –
      * + Atlantic Coast HS, November 7th
        + Englewood HS, November 14th
        + Palm Avenue HS, November 21st
    - Will continue to work with Amy Valentine to get the Resource Night schedules out to everyone
    - MDC used to get out and talk about awareness, if want to do that it is something doable, it would be commitment of council members
    - Mental Health & Epilepsy First Aid Training through the city virtual and in-person training (flyer included in your packets)
    - Still working on roundabouts, still looking to have meeting with JTA, FDOT & Public works regarding trying to find out where the sidewalk ends
    - Duval Delegation is coming up, we did put some stuff together, if anything in specific we haven’t mentioned in previous meetings that you want on there for our state legislator let us know quickly
    - Our brochure is in the last stages, all content approved
  + **Employment Subcommittee** – **Stephanie Young**
    - * Kara gave update about our partnership with CareerSource Training, December 13th, at Thrasher-Horne Center
      * Entrepreneurship Program getting kicked off, it was funded, working on finalizing the curriculum, getting application process together, hoping to launch in January
        + Adam, new Community Outreach Coordinator for the Entrepreneurship Program
        + Classes will be held at FSCJ Campuses
      * Disability Employment Awareness Month:
        + Announce Entrepreneurship Program at a City Venue.
        + Hoping program can grow into a national program.
      * Pledge Card:
        + Changed one of the website pages from Employer Engagement Sessions to Employment Engagement:

Will house our Pledge Card & the Entrepreneurship Program

* + - * Jax Work Ability documents are with General Council pending approval
      * Why Hire: 5 bullet points created by Natalie Alden, document approved with Edits
      * 9-question survey created by Jose, still working on
      * Employee Award Application form now on Website
      * Proclamations: get to mayor 60-days out
      * Mobility Week: October 25th – November 2nd
        + Only found 2 local events:

Sunshine Bus Giveaway Day – Oct. 25

St Johns Council on Aging Paratransit No Co-Pay Days – Oct. 25

* Look into doing (planning) something next year
  + **Access to Health & Wellbeing/Adaptive Sports** – **Jose Morales &** **Ray Pringle** - *Ray Pringle advised he was at a meeting this morning and spoke with a congressman who advised if there is anything that the federal people can do with what we’re doing he would be happy to work with us!*
    - Topics on Hospital & Medical Facilities Accommodations

Guest: Lynn Sherman from the Administration talked with the committee about a Health Symposium for Elder Adults, after talking with her about our needs, she realized we need our own Symposium and advised we need to do:

* + - * + Community Needs Assessment – hopefully this helps to get disability accessibility as a major topic within that as well as our own Symposium
* We identified the things that have been brought up to our committee from training, to lack of DME, to Discharge, to difference in hospitals & medical facilities, from point A to point B, we covered it all
* The purpose was for her to understand the depth of the process and we believe she did gained a better understanding of what we want to do instead of the general bias we just want some type of service
  + - Having her commitment and adding other city leaders or partners to that commitment will only help us
    - We have decided to Table the Town Hall, we are going to let her go back to the drawing board and come back with the next steps: Symposium, Town Hall, Health Assessment (every 3 years on accessibility)
* Mater Plan for Parks & Recs was sent out, still being worked on:
  + Sunny Acres should be done by summer 2025
* QUESTION: Megan Hyman on Community Needs Health Assessment, states*, I know it’s with the non-profit Hospitals that’s doing it, do you guys have access to those final reports, are they shared with you after they’re completed?*
* ANSWER: Kara Tucker & Natalie Alden, *that’s what we were asking for…* Natalie, *we were asking if we are able to get that and we are also trying to find out what exactly are they asking…*
* Megan advised can get a copy of the most recent report from 2023, can get the community health needs assessment
* **Ad Hoc Reports**
  + **Career Source – Lou Anne Hasty (not present)**
  + **Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) – Amy Valentine**
    - Hurricane make up dates have been scheduled
    - Currently in the 2nd 9-weeks of school
    - Maria from APD spoke to ESE Advisory Committee
    - Celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month
  + **JSO – Lt. Michael Nguyen (not present)**
  + **Library/Talking Books – Tonja Ferrell** 
    - Books by Mail subscriptions are up
    - Kara came to Managers Meeting and did a presentation about service animals
    - New policies for Talking Books, effective October 1st
  + **Transportation – Mia Johnson (JTA)** 
    - Stats for October:
      * + On Time Performance (OTP) –

88.7% for pick up

93.7% for appointment

Ridership Riders– 22,963

Ridership Trips – 21,119

* + - Top 3 Concerns:
      * + Booking Errors
        + No show
        + Didn’t Assist
* Connexion Plus – addressing milage charges
  + **MV Transportation** – **Jim Neddo**
    - Addressed the Top 3 Concerns:
      * + ***Booking errors***: will have to dig a little deeper to see cause
        + ***Not Assisting****:* Had a big safety blitz –

intersection awareness,

assisting with mobility devices,

wheelchair secure-ment,

communicating with the client

customer service focus training

* Hiring waves:
  + Dispatch & Reservations
  + MV Corporate side working with JTA to help streamline reservation process
  + **VR – Gonza Gonzague** –
    - Hiring Counselors
  + **CareerSource – Lou Anne Hasty**
    - Holiday Training – MDC will be attending to train employees on how to approach people with disabilities
    - Veterans Day – Paychecks for Patriots: big employment event
  + **Brooks Rehabilitation – Megan Hyman** 
    - Held our 1st Bocce Tournament – October 12, will now do 2x a year
    - Participated with Brooks Rehab Amputee Program for Limb Loss Awareness Day – 2nd annual
    - Coming Events:
      * + Gifts of the Season Talent Show – Friday, 11/08, 5pm – 8pm at Christ Church (free event)
        + Fishing Event for Youth
        + Large Ice-Skating Event in December
        + Sporting Events coming January & February

2 tournaments January,

2 tournaments in February

Open to the public

Power Soccer

Wheelchair Rugby

Wheelchair Basketball

* + **CIL – Jose Morales** 
    - Amazon donations giveaway next week, Tuesday - Thursday
    - FAAST program demo’s all next month, call our office to make an appointment, 904-399-8484
    - Cell phone training for the blind community
    - Training to Promote Self-employment
* **Floor Nominations: Chair & Vice Chair**
  + Jose Morales nominated **Ray Pringle for Chair;** nomination *accepted by Ray Pringle*
  + Dan O’Connor nominated **Stephanie Young as Chair**; *declined by Stephanie Young*
  + Denise Torres nominated **Stephanie Young as Vice Chair**; *accepted by Stephanie Young*
  + Ballot nominations passed out
* **Public Comment:**
  + Tyler Morris – Recognized Jose Morales stating, “*Mr. Chair, I’d like to start with one thing, your leadership in bring people together has done the Mayor’s Disability Council in Jacksonville well, so I am proud of you for that and that skill that is a natural thing that you can’t learn, you are a natural at bringing people together to get things done!”*
  + 2nd thing: Nonprofits of NE Florida putting together a meeting with 6 focus groups, first meeting tomorrow all welcome to join 1:30 – 3pm, will forward to DSD office to share with MDC
* **Adjourn Meeting** –
  + Motioned by Ray, 2nd by several, meeting adjourned

Chair: Jose Morales

Vice-Chair: Natalie Alden

**Disabled Services Division**

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