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

Tuesday, April 2, 2024; 3:00PM Mayor’s Conference Rm

**Members Present:** Natalie Alden, Barbara Brown, Ronald McCauley, Jose Morales, Dan O’Connor, Anida Pollo, Ray Pringle, Denise Torres & Stephanie Young (awaiting appointment approval)

**Ad Hoc Members Present:** Tonja Ferrell, Chris Macklin, Gonza Gonzague, Rebecca Scissors & Amy Valentine

**Public Guest Present:** Andrea Byrd Brown (Summer Plus Inc.), Michelle Tetschner (FIRE Foundation) and Michelle DelCarladenski (HHI), MV Transportation Representative, Cory & Michael

Meeting started at 3pm by Chair Jose Morales, opened with the pledge of Allegiance followed by

* **Welcome and Introduction**
* **Parliamentarian** read by Ray Pringle
* **Approval of Minutes (March)**
* **Announcements:**
  + **Disabled Services** – Chief Kara Tucker
    - Adult changing Table passed LUZ & City Council on 03/26 with an amendment 17/0. Chair recognized Kara & Natalie, also Dan & Ray for their work & support
    - Fair Housing Expo 2024, Saturday, 04/06, 9am-3pm at Southbank Hotel
    - Wellness Fest, Saturday, 04/06, 10am-2pm at Riverside Park
    - ADA Week currently have Tuesday, 07/23 the ADA Symposium & IT Symposium at UNF in the University Center, Wednesday, 07/24 loading/set-up for the Disability EXPO at the Prime followed by a networking event for vendors, Thursday, 07/25 is the 3rd Annual Disability Expo & Adaptive Recreation Day (Adaptive Recreation Fair as part of the Expo), Friday, 07/26 is the actual signing of the ADA however still working on planning for Friday
    - WeVote: location may be City Hall however waiting on feedback from other members of the WeVote planning Committee, next meeting last Tuesday of April, 04/30, Jose will send out notes of the meeting.

**Discussion:** CIL Breakfast, Friday, 07/26, trying to see if City & MDC would like to partner. Because it is a fund raiser event for CIL, MDC can’t partner with? Correct per Kara, however Diversity Chief working with different boards if they have “Weeks” planned they do a breakfast so may be added next year.

WeVote-table it or take back to Committee (CIL). Motion to discuss and not table it by Natalie, motion 2nd by Dan- Further Discussion: Motion withdrawn by Natalie

* **Old Business:**
* Iceman game, didn’t get our name on the board and issues with seating.
* Attendance Letters sent to some board members, 1 member resigned, waiting on approval from administration to approve new members.
* Recommendation to send something to thank that board member for their service.
* **New Business:**
* Employee of the Quarter(criteria’s)- will table it per Chair
* **Subcommittee Reports/update (5 minutes)**
* LEAPSC Subcommittee – Natalie Alden

Highlights:

* JTA-awareness campaign/best practice page on AIRA App-Chris Macklin will follow-up
* Proclamations-will look at all- send any disability related proclamations you’d like to see to Kara or submit to public affairs
* White Cane Awareness Day– 10/15/2024 (Art Museum Drive)
* Mental Health First Aid Trainings-looking into/Free or low cost
* Duval Schools-Events for different things going on/would like to do outreach/will give DCPS a flyer for the Disability Expo to pass out at end of school year-will add to Team Page for employees
  + Employment Subcommittee – Dan O’Connor
    - * Guest-Cheya Thousand-contractor with JSEP, CT Wellness Co, wanting to collaborate with Employment subcommittee for people with disabilities wanting to start their own businesses
      * Kara had 2 meetings with JSEP & Cheya to talk about the different community events with the entire community as well as the disability community
      * Score.org/Jacksonville: free trainings & workshops, good resource for people wanting to start own business
      * Service animals-Southeastern guide dogs
      * Employee of the Quarter-some challenges in finding the link-adjustments needed-subcommittee will work on
      * Awards for employers-few challenges to be worked on
      * Shop-ability Day for employees that support disabled workers
      * Website-Jacksonville.gov some issues-in process of updating
  + Healthcare & Adaptive Sports did not meet- per chair next meeting need everybody’s to try your best to be there because planning the town hall & getting the city involved, trying to get some presenters there
* **Ad Hoc Reports**
  + Duval County Public Schools – Amy Valentine / Rebecca Scissors
* Received Education, Innovation & Research Grant ($1MM Grant):
  + 3 day training
  + Train 360 General Education Teachers on how to work with students with disabilities
  + Improving achievement, reducing suspensions
  + Starts this summer
  + JSO- Not present
* Stephanie Young reported: able to keep disabled individual out of Clay County Jail and getting services needed for mental health crisis.
* Sgt. Patterson-ADA Coordinator for Duval County Jail might reach out regarding training
  + Library/Talking Books – Tonja Ferrell
* Developing training to educate Library Staff so they will know what accommodations to offer
  + Transportation – Chris Macklin/James Sear
* Increase ridership:
  + Paratransit 23,452 rides in March (up 9% from March 2023)-9 valid complaints
  + ConnectionPlus 15,160 rides in March
  + On-time performance hit monthly goal of 90%
  + Top compliments: Drivers professional/ride clean
  + JTA hosting State Rhode April 19-20 at JTA Myrtle Ave Campus: Best drivers/operator & mechanic across state of Florida from each agency coming to Jacksonville to compete in a course and winner will go to Nationals. Questions to: 904-630-3106 Terri Smith (Coordinator of the Event).
  + Goal to have 130 drivers/currently have 124 – training every week, different group every week
  + Disability Week: paratransit plans in place, MV drivers on standby/drivers outside of Jacksonville available to assist
  + Timeline on U-serve app-will be at JTEC Monday can report on timeline
  + VR – Gonza Gonzague - nothing to report
  + Brooks Rehabilitation – not present
* partnering with David Jones from Tallahassee for sports-ability at the Expo
* If you have a disability can get a free hunting & fishing license
  + CIL – Jose Morales
* Next week publishing braille workshops for anyone wanting to learn basic grade 1 braille
* Free Vaccine - flu, covid-19 or health check (get a $30 gift card)
  + Disability Rights Florida – Natalie Alden
* In middle of settling a law suit for people that was on a long-term care waiver
* **Public Comment** – Speaker Cards:
* Michele – Question on board positions
* Andrea – Question on Sub-committees
* Michael – issues with service dog at local bars
* **Adjourn Meeting**

Chair: Jose Morales

Vice-Chair: Natalie Alden

**Disabled Services Division**

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