

MAYOR'S ROUNDTABLE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2016

Present: Mas Sala, Passle Helminski, Jessica Molczan, Alan Dunfee, Chris Gerhart, Kim Brown, Diana Ames, Pat Stucke, Curtis Jones Sr., Charlotte Scalise, Chris Cowan, Dan Roessner, Vance Duncan III, Michael Fiorelli

1). Welcome

Meeting was opened by Mas Sala welcoming everyone in attendance. The Sign-in sheet was circulated for signature by those present.

2). Subcommittee Reports

Emergency Services Subcommittee
(Tracy Witherspoon)

Tracy Witherspoon has elected to assume the position of Chairwoman for the Emergency Services Subcommittee. Tracy is in the process of assembling a subcommittee and encourages anyone that might be interested to contact her at:

twitherspoon@vficil.org

or;

(814) 874-0064

Education/Diversity Training/Employment
(Diana Ames/Jessica Molczan)

Diana Ames provided the explanation that the focus of this subcommittee will be providing education to the community in the area of Mental Health. The subcommittee is meeting at Voices for Independence.

An outreach strategy they are considering includes a Public Service announcement. The subcommittee is still in the process of developing a Mission Statement and will be meeting December 6, 2016 at Voices for Independence.

Accessibility/Mobility/Transportation
(Passle Helminski)

Passle Helminski indicates that she is still soliciting for members to join this subcommittee. In the meantime, Passle continues to fight for legislation, that may be absent, relating to the use service dogs.

Housing/Homelessness
(Mas Sala)

There was nothing new to report for this subcommittee at this time. The next meeting for this subcommittee will be January 27, 2017.

3). **New Business**

Alan Dunfee commented on the City of Erie website – specifically the ADA Coordinator page missing Mayor’s Roundtable minutes for 2016. Alan further indicated that the Member’s List provided on the website is outdated.

These concerns have since been resolved. The 2017 minutes are now available on the website. With regard to the outdated Members List – the decision was made to simply remove this list primarily due to the frequent change in members as well as an inability to maintain a current list for members that may be unable to be involved any longer.

4). **Open Comments**

Passle announced that she continues to work on National Service Dog protection. She also commented on the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) organization and they plan on approaching the Trump administration regarding the issue of Service Dog legislation.

Passle also thanked the LIFT for assisting voters with transporting them to various polling sites on Election Day.

Chris Cowan (OVR/BBVS) thanked the City for their participation of White Cane Awareness Day which was held October 14, 2016. He also thanked the Mayor for the Proclamation recognizing October 14, 2016 as White Cane Awareness Day.

Chris Gerhart (LIFT) briefly discussed the entire Commonwealth Para transit service being managed on one (1) system through the use of more advanced software. This would also allow for viewing the exact locations of the Para transit buses, which would offer improved ETA times and service in general.

5). **Meeting Schedule for 2017**

- February 16, 2017
- May 18, 2017
- August 24, 2017
- November 16, 2017

All meetings begin at 2:00 pm and are held in the Conference Room (2nd Floor) at the Intermodal.