

MAYOR'S ROUNDTABLE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2017

Present: Mayor Joseph Sinnott, Mas Sala, Kim Brown, Abby Skinner, Debra Smith, Vance Duncan, Diana Ames, Chris Gerhart, Dawn Sokol

1). **Welcome**

Meeting was opened by Mas Sala welcoming everyone in attendance.

A Congratulations is also extended to **Diana Ames** who is the recipient of the **Othello Myers Johnson Human Services Award**. The award will be presented to Diana at GECAC's 47th annual Dinner on Friday, September 15, 2017 at 5 PM at the Bayfront Convention Center.

The Sign-in sheet was circulated for signature by those present.

2). **Subcommittee Reports**

Emergency Services Subcommittee
(Tracy Witherspoon)

No new information reported.

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

Diana Ames reports that the subcommittee has been involved talking with several employers regarding any employment opportunities available in an effort to meet the needs of those individuals who are in search of gainful employment and struggle securing same.

Diana has also incorporated offering assistance to individuals who desire to develop a resume and/or revise, or modify, an existing resume.

Accessibility/Mobility/Transportation
(Passle Helminski/Kim Brown)

Although not present at this Roundtable due to other commitments, **Passle Helminski** wanted it reported for her subcommittee, that "Sidewalk Closed" signs evident in the sidewalks when construction is in progress, fail to meet the needs of the visually impaired. This issue was brought to the attention of the organization in question, however, this is not the only organization that implements the practice of placing a barricade/signage on a sidewalk while construction is in progress.

A possible solution to this issue would be for information to be provided to the public informing them of the various locations where a detour on a sidewalk may be in place within the City of Erie - primarily due to construction or perhaps damage to a sidewalk that is in the process of being repaired, etc., etc.. However, details are still being reviewed, so that the most informative and useful process is implemented.

Housing/Homelessness
(Mas Sala)

There was nothing new to report for this subcommittee.

3). **Mayor's Remarks**

Mayor Sinnott continues to express gratitude to the members of the Mayor's Roundtable for their commitment and involvement to community concerns in the interest of improving the quality of life for those individuals with disabilities.

Mayor Sinnott also commented that since the November 16, 2017 will be the last meeting he will be attending, that the new Mayor will also be invited to attend, for the purpose of introducing him to the Roundtable.

4). **Meeting Schedule for 2017**

- November 16, 2017

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