

# MAYOR'S ROUNDTABLE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

## Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2018

Present: Mayor Joe Schember, Mas Sala, Passle Helminski, Tracy Witherspoon, Jessica Molczan, Diana Ames, Rhonda Schember, Autumn Wilcox, Dana Preston, Wayne Harbison, LeAnn Parmenter, Kelly Meyer, Vance Duncan, Kim Brown

1). **Welcome**

Meeting was opened by Mas Sala welcoming everyone in attendance.

Introductions were made and the Sign-in sheet was circulated for signature by those present.

2). **Old Business**

The Mayor's Roundtable resumed – and then concluded discussion – on the detectable warning mechanisms at construction sites. There has been some difference in interpretation as to what the requirements are with regard to ensuring sufficient notifications and guidance relating to paths of travel at construction sites for blind and/or hearing impaired individuals.

City of Erie Traffic Engineer asserts that all rules have been followed in accordance with PennDOT, and ADA requirements in work zones. The Traffic Engineer briefly discussed the option to reprogram the audible street crossings to explain path of travel through a work zone – it should be noted, however, that this is not an option at all worksites, as audible crossing signals are not located at every corner of the City.

3). **Subcommittee Reports**

Emergency Services Subcommittee  
(Tracy Witherspoon)

Tracy did not have anything new to report since the last Mayor's Roundtable held last month. Although, Tracy states that her subcommittee has an upcoming meeting scheduled.

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

**Diana Ames** reports that the subcommittee continues to focus on diversity and increasing employment availability for individuals with disabilities. They are seeking out partnerships with employers in the community to expand options of where individuals with disabilities could potentially be employed.

It was also suggested that the subcommittee could research the possibility of incorporating themselves in the Eagles Nest program which has an established employer base already for individuals.

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

**Passle** reports that Friday, March 23, 2018 is the next subcommittee meeting. Discussion of the EMTA Training bus was discussed – it is a separate bus used specifically to assist individuals learn how to take the bus, for those who may never have experienced doing so.

Housing/Homelessness  
(Mas Sala)

There is no new information to report for this sub-committee. This subcommittee's next meeting is Friday, May 11, 2018. At that time, we will be discussing various activities that subcommittee member organizations may involve themselves.

4). **New Business**

As initiated by Mayor Schember during the meeting, discussion centered on how the Mayor's Roundtable community partner members could do more for the community in terms of improving quality of life for individuals with disabilities in Erie.

Mayor Schember suggested that it may be beneficial to the community to provide a Public Forum which could feature 2-3 agencies who could showcase the services their agency offers, as well as field any questions, needs, or concerns from those in attendance. This process would allow agencies to insure that the community is aware of the resource. In addition, it would offer the agencies an opportunity to enhance or expand their services based on the needs voiced during the forums.

Everyone present at the Mayor's Roundtable seemed to embrace the idea of offering Public Forums. Diana Ames (MH Association) will develop a tentative schedule and agencies who would participate. Additional discussion to formulate a final schedule will resume at the next Mayor's roundtable meeting.

5). **Open Comments**

- One Member suggested that a PennDOT Representative could attend one of the Mayor's Roundtable meetings – the City of Traffic engineer will research that possibility.
- The establishment of a separate bicycle/pedestrian committee is recommended.

**Meeting Schedule for 2017**

- April 12, 2018
- May 17, 2018
- June 14, 2018
- July 12, 2018
- August 23, 2018
- Sept. 20, 2018
- Oct. 18, 2018
- Nov. 15, 2018
- Dec. 13, 2018

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