

MAYOR'S ROUNDTABLE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2018

Present: Mayor Joe Schember, Renee Lamis, Mas Sala, Wayne Harbison, Rhonda Schember, Bruce Eicher, Dave Deter, Chris Cowan, Dawn Sokol, Kim Brown, Jeff Johnson, Shawn Rogers, Tracy Witherspoon, Jessica Molczan, Chris Gerhart, Diana Ames, Fred Tepfer, Vance Duncan, Autumn Wilcox

1). **Welcome**

Meeting was opened by Mas Sala welcoming everyone in attendance. Of note, this is the first meeting of the year for the subcommittee and with a new Mayor – Mayor Schember – and some of his Administration, present.

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

2). **Subcommittee Reports**

Emergency Services Subcommittee
(Tracy Witherspoon)

Tracy reports the subcommittee discussed the CERT (Community Emergency response Team) training in June 2018 – with trainer Dale Robinson.

Tracy also reports that the subcommittee will apply for the CDBG grant so they can participate in the Emergency Preparedness Expo this fall – 2018.

Lastly, Tracy continues to encourage more individuals to become involved with the subcommittee and provide their input.

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

Diana Ames reports that the subcommittee has arrived at a final draft of their Mission Statement:

"The mission of the City of Erie's Mayor's Disability Roundtable Diversity, Education and Employment subcommittee is to promote the value of diversity, employment, and education for individuals with disabilities who reside in the City of Erie."

The subcommittee also continues to discuss the issue of poverty and employment. Diana further asserts that at the Mayor's recommendation, the subcommittee will engage for-profit agencies to continue this discussion.

The subcommittee has also discussed the connection between housing and healthcare, as well as discussion of landlords.

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

Passle was not present at today's Roundtable, however, wanted to offer the suggestion to the advocates of audible signals at construction site locations – that they could pursue this requirement at the state level.

Housing/Homelessness
(Mas Sala)

There is no new information to report for this sub-committee. Unfortunately, this subcommittee continues to experience low attendance. It was discussed at the last Housing/Homelessness subcommittee meeting, the possibility of having some CDBG funds allocated for a project that could be given to a community partner that in some way furthered fair housing.

3). **Open Comments**

Autumn Wilcox -

Discussed the new Single-point of Contact number that can now be utilized for those in need of shelter or any other array of services. That number is simply: "SHELTER" (743-5837) - it is not necessary to dial the area code (814) prior to dialing the number.

Upon calling the number, you will connect to Erie County Care Management (ECCM) which is designated as the Single-point of Contact agency. From there, an individual will be provided with an appropriate referral to either an agency outside of ECCM or a referral to a service offered at ECCM.

Mrs. Rhonda Schember -

Mrs. Schember offered a couple of suggestions. In the spirit of achieving increased community partner involvement, Mrs. Schember recommended including more community partners on the email invitation to the Mayor's Roundtable.

Another suggestion that was made was to include the Agenda in the email invitation which could aid in enticing other partners to attend.

Both are good suggestions and will be implemented.

Freda Tepfer -

Freda raised the issue for the need for audible mechanisms to guide the blind & visually impaired individuals while they navigate through construction zones that may have necessitated blocking a path of travel.

The City Traffic Engineer, Leann Parmenter, has been working closely with Freda specifically on obtaining an accurate interpretation of the ADA requirement as it relates to construction sites - LeAnn has also been in communication with the State and PennDOT to obtain their interpretation of the ADA requirement.

Lastly, a comment was made relating to the lack of Blue Meters available for handicap parking. It is believed that the City lacks adequate handicap parking places.

There is also frustration with the inability to access a meter, during the winter months where there is a substantial amount of snow that has accumulated, due to the piles of snow that block access to the meter.

4). Mayor's Comments

Mayor Schember commented that a subcommittee could be formed to include the mental health population. The Mayor also shared that this group is of great interest to he and his wife primarily due to their personal experiences and/or challenges with their own child.

Meeting Schedule for 2017

- May 17, 2018
- August 23, 2018
- November 15, 2018

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