

MAYOR'S DISABILITY COUNCIL (MDC)



A NEW DAY.

Mayor's Disability Council Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 3, 2025, 3:00 to 5:00 PM |

City Hall, St James | 117 W Duval St | 4th Floor | Mayor's Conference Room

Members Present: Natalie Alden, Barbara Brown, Dominique DeWitt, Ron McCauley, Jose Morales, Dan O'Connor, Anida Pollo, Ray Pringle, Stephanie Young

Ad-Hoc Members Present: Gonzague Gonza (VR), Lou Anne Haste (CareerSource), Megan Hyman (Brooks Rehab), Mia Johnson Tsopie Trottie (JTA), Rickie Grace (JFRD), Brent Nelson & Maurice Armstrong (MV Transportation), Amy Valentine (DCPS),

Citizens Present: Angela Timbrook (Advocate), John Nooney (Advocate), Sara Gaver (Advocate), Alice Krause (Occupational Therapist), Abby (OT Student) Anna Erickson, Kay Burnhill, (Occupational Therapists), Adrian Rubio

Staff Present: Kara Tucker, Tamika Gloston & Tereese Goodloe

Meeting Called to order at: 3:03pm by Ray Pringle, Chairman of the Board, and started with Introductions

Vote to Approve Minutes:

- Moved by: Natalie Alden to approve minutes from: May 6, 2025.
Second by: Jose Morales.

Pledge of Allegiance: all in attendance

Parliamentarian: by Jose Morales

Vote to Approve Previous Minutes:

- Moved by: _____ to approve minutes from: April 1, 2025.
Second by: _____.
- Moved by: _____ to approve minutes from: March 5, 2025.
Second by: _____.

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Jose Morales motioned to table minutes for April and March until August because has not read minutes to approve, seconded by Natalie Alden, all in favor of tabling April and March Minutes until the August meeting.

- *Kara Tucker advised just for clarification, everyone has copies of the minutes in front of them, and the minutes were also mailed out, if additional copies needed, please contact Disabled Services*

Guest Speaker: Angela Timbrook, Local Farmer

- Opening a Discussion:
 - Was approached by the Council for Independent Living to begin work on an Agricultural Facility at Bethesda Park
 - Seeking interest, it is a city owned park
 - Tim Armstrong a part of partnerships
 - BlueZones in Collaboration – working towards making sure everyone has the ability and availability to farm at their house
 - Possibilities of raised beds & hydroponic settings
 - Invited by Sharon to come and start this conversation
- Jose Morales spoke about a Pilot Program giving money to launch projects like this but need to own land.
 - Angela advised working with UF and do not have to own land for the program, just must have outdoor space where you can plant and put up lights
 - Ability to participate by sharing your produce with others
 - We envision it's going to look different at every place, we can come to your site
 - Our idea is we get the UF, UNF and you together
 - We provide education and opportunities
 - Goal is to try to meet the needs of every single citizen in our community
 - Meeting with DCPS science departments

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- Kara will share contact information.

Announcements / updates: Kara Tucker, Chief COJ Disabled Services

- Still have memberships available on MDC
- Having an Executive meeting July 1st, 2025, at 3:00pm to talk about executive items in regards to membership and attendance, as well as the Jim Brady Scholarship to review this year's applicants
- We are in our 3rd week of the Entrepreneurship program for individuals with disabilities
- In process of planning the Disability Expo – July 26th at the Prime Osborn from 10am – 3pm. We have several different speakers presenting
 - Natalie Alden advised if you don't already have an Exhibitor Booth at the Expo to get with Kara
- Sharks game scheduled for June 7, which is Saturday, confirmation emails will be sent out later this week
- Ray Pringle opened discussion about plaques or service coins for former members
 - Kara advised will put on the August agenda to discuss
 - Jose states we voted in one of the subcommittees to have the service coins and if a member has been here for 2 years or more, they should be recognized

Subcommittee Reports:

• Employment – Stephanie Young

- Stephanie Young was the only subcommittee member present along with staff and a few Council Members, so we had an unofficial meeting discussion to talk about important Action Items
- Mentorship and Hiring Abilities – do we want to table until next year due to our timeline or do we want to try to push through on those items for October this year

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- Mentorship – we talked about creating a survey and getting out to the community to see what industries and then finding companies to host
 - Motioned to table for next year made by Jose Morales, 2nd by Natalie Alden
- Hiring Abilities – Kara states talked with Florida Blue about their conference center and met with the office of General Council so between now and the next meeting will come up with a solution on how we can proceed
 - Natalie suggests waiting until August to see what we can come up with in regard to a community partner, states let us do some homework and in the August meeting we will know if it's do-able
 - Motion made by Jose Morales to table for the August meeting, 2nd by Natalie Alden.
- **Legislation, Education & Public Safety (LEAPS) – Anida Pollo**
 - Did not have a quorum so we just had a discussion:
 - Education – James Brady Scholarship, we did get about 5 or 6 applications which will be looked at at the Executive meeting
 - July 1st, 2025, 3pm – 5pm
 - 3 members there but open to all MDC members
 - If you'd like to join, ask Kara
 - DPEP Report – Tamika Gloston, DSD Manager
 - 4 volunteer applications
 - Completed enforcement certification April 24
 - In Train the Instructor training this week
 - Dismissals for January – May 2025 is 144
 - Citations written form Feb – May is 28
 - Volunteer citations dismissed Feb – May was 20
 - Outreach at Jax Ready Fest, April 25 – 26, 2025

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- Completed a DPEP Training Refresher on Feb 7, 2025
- Natalie Alden and Ray Pringle asked if the board has a copy of the report?
- Jose Morales asked, “is there a reason why citations are getting dismissed?”
- Ray Pringle asked if we could find out why we are losing the court cases.
- Natalie Alden asked if we knew when Khaliah would go out and write citations?
 - Kara advised after she’s done with this current training we have to go out and get uniforms, the last 2 places we’ve worked with to get uniforms closed here locally so working with JSO through their vendors
 - Natalie asked if we knew how long this would take?
 - Kara states will contact them this week
 - Dan O’Connor asked how much money we have in the Trust Fund now.
 - Tamika stated she does not have the exact numbers with her right now because it was sent to her earlier, but she believes it was a little over a \$155 thousand
- Initiatives - Housing Task Force, meeting May 21st – Jose Morales
 - People from Humana, the Arc, APD, the City of Jacksonville were all there and good things came out of the meeting:

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- A solution driven action plan to try to get Jacksonville Housing Authority to come to our meeting
- Many entry points to get people on the waitlist for housing but 3 main issues
 - Must be documented homeless for at least 6 months
 - Must fill out about 6 or 7 applications at different Jacksonville Housing Authority apartment complexes and it costs about \$150 per application
- Our solution is to try to come up with one department to have one application for all Jacksonville Housing Authority properties
- Looking for Jacksonville Housing Authority (JHA) to work with us, MDC to ask someone from JHA to attend an MDC meeting
- Next Housing Task Force meeting is June 25 and JHA are supposed to attend, Kara will work on getting JHA to the August MDC meeting
- Natalie Alden suggests MDC write a letter to Florida Housing Finance Cooperation and FHC
- **Adaptive Recreation & Medical Access – Ray Pringle**
 - It was all about an App for Parks & Recs, there's still a lot of work to do, a work in progress
 - Parks & Recs have been working on the app for about a year but they're looking for our participation to make sure our city is accessible, and we need to make sure our parks are accessible

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Ad Hoc Reports:

- **Duval County Public Schools – Amy Valentine & Rebecca Scissors**
 - Just completed 10 HS Graduations and 2 Elementary Graduations where ASL Interpreters were requested
 - Working with UNF to improve communication regardless of whether accommodations are requested to the venue or requested to the school system
 - Last day of school was Friday so students are out for summer, we will have an extended school year program, it begins June 23rd – July 18th and that is by IEPT Recommendation, so it's not a summer camp, it's for students who need additional time to meet their IEP goals
- **Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department (JFRD) – Cpt. Rickie Grace**
 - New Emergency Response guys will be available soon
 - Print and online format will be ADA compliant with screen reader accessibility
 - Sensory Kits went before finance committee today, they will go before General Council next Tuesday for final approval,
 - Hopefully we can get them onto all 64 of our rescues soon
- **Jacksonville Public Library Talking Books – Tonja Ferrell**
 - Tonja not in attendance but emailed updates to Kara:
 - Summer Reading Programs – National Library Service extends to our blind and physically disabled children and adults through the talking books and blind services
 - 3rd and last Summer Reading Program will run Monday, June 16 – Friday, August 15, 2025, exhibiting books with a variety of authors
 - Talking Books customers may register for the kick-off event with Mack Burnette online, the link on our website under Talking Books service page

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- The NLS Summer Reading Program can be enjoyed in conjunction with the Library Summer Reading Program
Email: tferrell@coj.net Phone: 904-255-6133
- **Jacksonville Transportation Authority – Mia Johnson**
 - Ridership – May
 - Trips – 22,920
 - Transporting Passengers - 25,223
 - OTP Connexion:
 - ✓ Pick up time 89%
 - ✓ Appointment time 96%
 - Dan O'Connor asked about complaints and no-shows, Mia states will start back reporting
 - Dan O'Connor asked if there is a JTA contact where people with disabilities can get a printout of trips they've taken to and from their jobs?
 - Mia advised that is information they can pull
 - JTA is hosting the National Automatic Vehicle Day, if you haven't registered, we'd love for you to register, its June 23rd at the Prime Osborn, Kara has the link and will send out to everybody
 - Jose Morales states he was walking down Bay Street and saw the stops and they looked very ADA Compliant
 - To make suggestions on fixed routes contact the customer service line
 - The latest update on the Awning, it is still in the design process with facilities so still pending
- **MV Transportation – Brent Olsen**
 - As an update: Ed Vanheel is no longer with MV and Alda Spragins is at another location
 - Brent Olsen the new Assistant General Manager
 - Maurice Armstrong is the new Operational Manager

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- MV Focus: approximately 40 drivers, working on staffing and improving our on-time performance by increasing drivers where we will have back up drivers if one calls out
- **Vocation Rehabilitation (VR) – Gonza Gonzague**
 - Working on staff, adding more staff
- **Career Source of NE Florida – Lou Anne Hasty**
 - Career fairs every Wednesday at our Southside location
 - Still doing that Hope Initiative Project
- **Brooks Rehab – Megan Hyman**
 - This Saturday from 9am-2pm is our Adaptive Sports event, Jax Beach, the list is full for those who want to surf there is a waitlist on the Brooks Rehab website
- **Public Comment – John Nooney**
 - Reflected in the minutes is a resolution from the Mayor's Disability
 - Seeking a resolution from MDC, recognizing Nooney's efforts advancing the FIND in potential Land Acquisition projects, 58833-0000134059-0000137044-0000 that would benefit all citizens of Duval County Jax
 - This is worldwide potential for the Mayor's Disability Council seeking a resolution, no money involved
- **Public Comment – Adrian Rubio**
 - Citizen of Duval County, thought he was a part of this council
 - Apologized for raising his hand states he had questions
 - States live by a school and it's not ADA compliant
 - Would like to know what is this city doing for us
 - States his wife got a ticket for parking in handicap spot and they paid it late so that the city would get more money for it

Motion to Adjourn: at 4:58pm by Stephanie Young

- Moved by: Ron McCauley, Second by: Jose Morales