

MINUTES

Constituency and Community Outreach

Mayor Donna Deegan Transition Committee

Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023

Location: Jewish Family & Community Services

Alan J. Taffet Building, 8540 Baycenter Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32256

Chair: Admed, Parvez

In Person: Dumont, Georgette; Madison, Hilt; Huto, Rebekah; McCoy, Rosemary; Meyer, Whitney; Nixon, Kiara; Melanie, Patz; Susan Ticker; Watson, Cindy

ZOOM : Shedrick, Tina; Capers, Troy; McKinnon, Joey; Midyette, Jimmy

GUESTS: Kara Tucker, Chief ADA Coordinator and Jose Morales, Chair, Mayor's Disability Council; Margarita Hunnefield, Director, Programs and Services, The Independent Living Resource Center; Aaron Lewis, Development Manager, CIL Jacksonville; Rosa Heard

1. Meeting called to Order:

at 6:01 pm by Parvez Ahmed, Chair

2. Discussion on Interim Report:

3. Presentation from Disability Services:

A) Jose Morales, Chair of Mayor's Disability Council and Kara Tucker, Chief ADA Coordinator:

- Mr. Morales stated that CIL Jacksonville is a nonprofit organization with 12 Centers throughout Florida and is connected to some 300 centers in the U.S.
 - 51% of the Jacksonville Staff and board have disabilities.
 - The CIL Mission is "to empower people with disabilities to live independently.
 - Core Services are: Advocacy, Peer Mentoring and Support, Transition, Independent Living Skills, and Providing Information and Referrals.
 - CIL Jacksonville does not duplicate services already provided but complements the spirit of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).
 - CIL Jacksonville has a temporary loan closet of durable medical equipment for free, for short and long term basis
 - Items are donated by the community
 - CIL will make necessary repairs
 - 260 consumers serviced and over 1,200 pieces of donated equipment in 2022
 - The Spirit of the ADA Event – invites members from the disability community to a free day at the Jacksonville Zoo. This is a partnership between CIL and the City of Jacksonville's Disabled Services Division.
 - This event helps to create awareness of people with disabilities
 - Gets people out of seclusion and allows them to interact with the rest of the community
 - Due to budget cuts this year's event was held at James Weldon Johnson Park
 - Cost \$25,000
- Mr. Morales was invited to prepare a request for funding event proposal to the Subcommittee Chairs, inclusive of a brief write-up of what this ask is important to the overall community. The Mayor will view this as a priority.

- CIL Jacksonville also holds an Emergency Preparedness Conference –
 - Provides an avenue to agencies to offer services to the disabled.
 - Looking to develop a component for youth
 - Looking to expand the number of Conferences from 1 to 6
- Mr. Morales was also invited to submit a event funding proposal inclusive of a one-page description of **WHY** this type of conference is needed, **WHO** benefits, **WHAT's** the purpose of this event, and **HOW** it is to be carried out and **WHAT** are the likely budget impacts of the event.

The Mayor's Disability Council meets the 1st Tuesday each month from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, in the mayor's Conference Room, 4th Floor of City Hall [COJ.net - Mayor's Disability Council](#)

B) Cara Tucker, Chief ADA Coordinator, City of Jacksonville ADA Compliance & Disabled Services Division: [COJ.net - Disabled Services](#)

- The overall goal of the Disabled Services Division is to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities by addressing, researching and attempting to resolve the many barriers they encounter.
 - Barriers include transportation, housing, accessibility, discrimination and employment
 - The Division is responsible for:
 - Increasing awareness of the needs of people with disabilities
 - Monitoring federal and state legislation relating to disability rights and issues and advising the Mayor and her staff about necessary City compliance
 - Suggesting and implementing ordinances aimed at improving equal access and opportunity
 - Serving as staff for the Mayor's Disability Council
 - Administering the Jim Brady Scholarship Fund Program
 - Partners with other non-profit organizations to provide programs/activities
 - Looking for a larger facility to hold various activities:
 - Senior Expo
 - Disability Expo
 - Sponsor Nights with Sports Teams
 - Currently in talks with Regency about space
- Ms. Tucker was invited to submit a funding proposal

4. Subcommittee Updates:

a. Non-Profit and Higher Education Revitalization – Christian Harden and Angela Mann

Reported by Georgette Dumont

- Subcommittee reviewed City of Jacksonville's budget allocations to non-profit agencies. Kids Hope Alliance has received the most funding
- Subcommittee is continuing with Higher Education interviews
- Meeting in two-weeks to examine the various classifications of agency types
- Will be sending in their recommendations to the full committee

b. Interfaith Relations Subcommittee met 7/31/2023 Recommendations:

- to review interim recommendations and set assignments
- Calendar of Religious and Cultural Observances
- Expand what the Office of Diversity and Inclusion should look like
- Develop MLK Week Outline
- Develop a commemoration for Ax Handle Saturday: August 27th
 - [Civil rights leader remembers 'Ax Handle Saturday' 60 years later \(yahoo.com\)](#)
 - Rodney Hurst will host the 63rd commemoration of Ax Handle Saturday on Sunday, August 27, 2023 at 4:30 pm at the Jessie duPont Center, 40 E. Adams St, (Corner of Ocean) – per Kiaira Nixon.
 - Additionally, Ms. Nixon understands that Mayor Deegan will be in attendance. The Chair will try to secure a Proclamation for the Mayor to read at the event.
 - Per Mr. Hurst there is a [1960 Civil Rights Demonstration Historic Marker \(Axe Handle Saturday\) - Clio \(theclio.com\)](#) located in James Weldon Johnson Park
 - Ms. Nixon will contact City Hall to get information on how to reserve exhibit space in the atrium – the Chair will forward the link to the on-line application.

c. Empowering Marginalized Communities Subcommittee met at 5 pm:

- Purpose was to check on progress
- Recommendations are due by next Tuesday 8/8/23

The Chair stated he was very proud of the subcommittees, interim reports were well written with emphasis on “the why.”

Reminder, that subcommittees must make the case for each recommendation articulately and as forceful as possible.

5. Public Comment:

- Rosie Heard – a neighbor of Susan Ticker.
- Ms. Heard stated that she was grateful for the work of the committees and that it is exciting to be learning about what’s being discussed and recommended. She would be glad to be a part of the committee.

6. Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 6 pm at Jewish Family & Community Services, 8540 Baycenter Rd, Jacksonville 32256 (NOTE: The Chair will be on vacation from 8/3-31/23 but subcommittees should continue to meet.

7. Adjournment: 7:01 pm