Mayor's Advisory Committee for the Disabled Proceedings

: OFFICIAL MINUTES

The meeting was held on July 12, 2010, at 4:09 p.m., at City Hall Building, 419 Fulton St, Room 404, Chair Mike Van Cleve presiding.

ROLL CALL
Roll call showed the following Committee members present: Mike Van Cleve, Deborah Limer Hannon, Roger Sparks, and Mabel VanDusen - 4. Absent: John Williams – 1. Also present was Staff Liaison David Watkins, Equal Opportunity Manager.

MINUTES
Committee Member Mable VanDusen motioned to approve minutes for the July 2010 meeting; Seconded by Committee Member Debbie Hannon.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNITY INPUT
None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
Publicity Committee – No Report

Events Committee – No Report

NEW BUSINESS
Size of Committee and Member Ratio – Staff Liaison David Watkins explained why the Mayor was interested in having the MACD discuss changing its size and the ratio for members. Watkins mentioned he knows the members have discussed this topic before, but with the current number of vacancies thought the timing was right to revisit the issue.

The Mayor thought it was more difficult to fill vacancies on larger Boards, Commissions, and Committees. By lowering the number of members
might make it easier to fill vacancies. Watkins reported the Mayor was looking at nine members being a good size.

For the MACD the Mayor was also interested in getting some feedback on changing the ratio between disabled and non-disabled members. The Mayor thought by lessening the number of disabled members this too would aid the filling of vacancies.

Committee Member Mike Van Cleve wondered why the membership was originally set at twelve. Staff Liaison Watkins explained the MACD grew over time to twelve members. The committee started at seven, went to nine then to twelve. As discussion continued, Committee Member Mable VanDusen mentioned she remembered notices about the meetings being sent out and the meetings were well attended. Committee Member Roger Sparks suggested the decline in interest was due to the committee only being allowed to talk about parking lots and stripping issues.

Committee Member Mike Van Cleve asked in light of these comments what would be the appropriate size for the committee. Committee Member Debbie Hannon mentioned when you look at the members that recently left they did so due to demands in their life and at work.

Committee Member Roger Sparks thought not enough effort was being expended in communicating with the disabled community. Committee Mike Van Cleve agreed that outreach to this group could be improved. One idea to improve communication was use of a phone tree. He asked Committee Member Roger Sparks to work with him on this and other ideas.

In directing the conversation back to the question regarding the size of the committee, Committee Member Mike Van Cleve said cannot really discuss size without also looking at the ratio of members.

The members wondered if the Mayor had any timeline in mind for receiving a response. Staff Liaison Watkins mentioned no exact time was mentioned.

Committee Member Debbie Hannon thought after the considerable discussion held the Committee should not delay in making its position known. She motioned to change the size of the MACD to nine members
with a minimum of four disabled members. Committee Member Mable VanDusen seconded the motion.

   Voting Yes – Committee Member Debbie Hannon (1); Voting No – Committee Members Mable VanDusen and Roger Sparks (2). 1 Abstention – Committee Member Mike Van Cleve. The motion failed.

The members discussed keeping the committee at its current size and configuration and using the next three months to try and recruit individuals to become members. Between now and the next meeting they were to discuss among themselves what steps they would take to be more aggressive in recruiting new members as well.

Disability Conference – Committee Member Mike Van Cleve reported he gave the letters soliciting interest in being on the Ad Hoc Committee to Staff Liaison David Watkins for mailing. Some members thought the letter might get some people interested in becoming a member.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

None Presented

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member Mabel VanDusen motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Committee Member Roger Sparks.

   Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.