

**Metro Area Mayor's Committee (MAMC)
For People with Disabilities
February 9, 2006 Minutes
Location: Fryin' Pan, Main Ave.**

Present: Sara Vetsch, Roman Rezac, Stephanie Sheets, Dan Mahli, Robert Anderson, Vicky Bogart, Jamie Stollenwerk, Jeff Anderson, Kristin Herman, Wanda Carlson, Paula Aalgaard, Ellen Dunn. Tom Thompson, Mark Breitbach, Jen Erickson.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account: \$6,081.88
Grace Tweiten Account: \$3,142.95
Savings Account: \$ 1,204.77
Combined Balance: \$10,429.60
Deposits: \$800.00 – Parking fees – City of Fargo

2 applications have been submitted for consideration to fund work clothing through the Grace Tweiten Account. NOTE: individuals applying for funds must either reside or work in Fargo for their applications to be considered.

Guest Speaker:

Mike Kunza from the FM Metropolitan Council of Governments presented information about the Metro-Transit Initiative aimed at increasing job access to people with and without disabilities by extending transportation services beyond previously established routes/service. The initiative planning began in 2002. Mike indicated that they're partnering with HandiWheels to provide rides outside of fixed routes during nontraditional hours @ a subsidized rate of \$2.00 per ride. Hours of operation are between 6 am and Midnight.

There's also a New Freedom Initiative aimed at providing transportation funds specifically for persons with disabilities in Metro and Rural areas, as noted.

Awards Banquet:

Tom continues to invite/request new nominations for various awards to include:

- Universal Access
- Outstanding Citizen
- Healthcare Professional
- Employer of the Year
- Entrepreneur
- Advocacy/Specialist
- Distinguished Service

The committee continues to seek new table sponsors – 8 letters have been sent to invite past/prospective co-sponsors. The committee seeks a total of 15 table

sponsors, and it's \$100.00 to sponsor a table. A free meal for 2 people and the individual's/organization's name is identified on the table and printed in the brochure. An introduction at the banquet is also included.

The cost per person to attend the Awards Banquet is \$10.00 with consideration given to those who would like to attend but are unable to pay that amount.

COPPS Program (Citizens on Parking Patrol):

Tom indicated that 3 students from MSUM were recently given names of businesses located west of I29 to continue surveys for parking compliance according to 3 criteria:

Presence of...

- International sign
- Fee indicator
- Blue stripe

Tom provided a brief review of the Copps program for members unfamiliar with this project. He reported that it's intended to bring businesses into compliance for providing accessible parking since the 11 volunteers who are authorized to write tickets for these parking violations are unable to do so if the business itself is not in compliance. Businesses will have a total of 120 days to come into compliance and will be issued a \$500.00 fine if they do not comply within this designated time frame.

Additional dialogue/announcements:

- Transition Fair for Fargo/West Fargo students at West Fargo High School on April 11th from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. The Mayor's Committee will have a presence at this event and Jeff Anderson has agreed to represent the group. If there are questions about the event itself, please contact Ellen Dunn.
- MAMC was nominated for a ChamberChoice award (Not-For-Profit) of the year. There is a reception for nominees at Wells Fargo Bank – Anyone interested in attending this reception would contact Tom by March 1st.
- Next MAMC meeting will be held at the Fryn' Pan on March 9th @ Noon pending further notification.
- MAMC are tentatively planned to continue meeting at the Fryn' Pan with further consideration to the Lighthouse Café when it's running in its new location unless otherwise indicated. Feedback regarding accessible parking availability at the Fryn' Pan is invited and encouraged.
- Free meal drawing recipient: Vicky Bogart

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Erickson

