

**Metro Area Mayors' Committee  
For People with Disabilities (MAMC)  
Location: Fryn' Pan, Main Avenue, Fargo  
May 8, 2008**

**Present:** Terry Romine, Tammy Stuart, Tom Thompson, Mary Tintes, Nate Aalgaard, Amanda Noce, Brenda Majerus, Paulette Ness, Jeff Anderson, Laura Eberhardt, Lillian Mulder, Maria Vazquez, Jenelle Bichler, Jeannie Krull, Dan Mahli, Camille Jorgenson, Kathy Circle, Ron Sandness, Jen Erickson.

**Co-Chairs presiding:** Tammy Stuart & Dan Mahli

Maria V. made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes (no April meeting due to Awards Banquet). Brenda M. provided a second. Motion passed.

**Added to today's agenda:** Nate Aalgaard's task force proposal. Maria made a motion to accept the agenda with addition(s). Jeff provided a second. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report – Paulette Ness**

Checking: \$4,851.57

GT Grant: \$4,259.35

Savings: \$1,218.37

Total: \$10,329.29

Deposits: \$650.00 (parking), \$2,630.00 (banquet)

Tammy S. indicated an application to request Grace Tveiten funds arrived. The review subcommittee will meet briefly after today's full committee meeting to review this application.

**Program Reports & Relevant Issues:**

Maria V. spoke to the group about a family whose daughter lost her vision due to a rare condition. Jen E. read a letter from the family as requested, providing background information about the child and outlining current financial needs. The family is seeking funds to attend a conference in Ohio to access medical specialists who have expertise pertaining to the diagnosed condition. The committee talked about possible referral sources for the family as they pursue funding, including Wings of Hope, and Sisters of the Presentation.

Jenelle B. from the National Federation of the Blind announced that an upcoming picnic at Island Park takes place on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Those who are interested in networking with this supportive community were asked to bring a dish to share as it's a potluck event.

**Civil and Human Rights Task Force:** Nate A. provided information about the mission of this task force, which meets monthly to focus efforts on increasing accessibility of facilities in the local business community. Nate stated the group works toward greater accessibility in area restaurants and other types of businesses, looking specifically at entrances, restrooms and other facility access areas where barriers may be likely to exist. Efforts are made to meet with managers and owners to discuss concerns and to share information about the ADA accessibility guidelines. The task force advocates for compliance with the law, and if changes aren't made through informal action, the group determines whether or not to file a complaint with the Department of Labor Division of Human Rights and proceeds accordingly.

Nate proposed that the task force become involved in evaluating nominations for the Universal Access award presented by the MAMC annually to ensure that nominated businesses are meeting the minimum ADA standards. Nate acknowledged the MAMC would continue to make the final selection after reviewing the nominations. Dialogue ensued and MAMC committee members supported this proposal.

The next Civil and Human Rights Task Force meeting is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>. Individuals interested in learning more about the task force are encouraged to contact Nate at Freedom Resource Center (FRC) at 701 478-0459. A follow up email from FRC identified the meeting time as Noon at the Golden Corral on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **MAMC Awards Luncheon**

It was a big success! Thank you to all those who participated in the planning efforts with special acknowledgements to: Tom Thompson (committee chair), Kathy Circle (banners), and Camille Jorgenson (compiled history of the MAMC). It was agreed that having the visual presentation to supplement activities at the banquet was helpful. Members offered comments about the limited space available for attendees to sit and Jeannie K. communicated concerns about space constraints for the AT Expo as well. There was dialogue about alternative locations such as the Fargodome and the Civic Center; however, reservations remain at the Ramada Plaza Suites pending further evaluation and discussion as the growth of these events continues to be monitored.

Banner stands were used for the MAMC display booth at the Expo. Dan M. made a motion to purchase stand(s) for \$100.00 and Jeff A. provided the second. Motion passed.

### **MAMC Elections:**

There was a call for MAMC members to consider serving on the elections committee; nominations are being sought for the executive board and voting will take place at the June meeting. Mary T. and Ron S. agreed to facilitate this collaborative effort.

### **C.O.P.P Update:**

Tom T. indicated that 50 official letters were sent to business owners who are not in compliance with accessible parking regulations. Business owners have 60 days to come into compliance and volunteers are needed to patrol the identified parking lots to track progress. Names of businesses that remain noncompliant after the 60 days (June 7<sup>th</sup> marks the end of the 60-day period) will be submitted to the City Attorney Office and fines will be issued.

### **Placement Subcommittee**

Jeff A. previously proposed the concept of forming a subcommittee of placement specialists to meet regularly and exchange job leads. Support was communicated for such a committee and it was agreed that holding subcommittee meetings immediately before the larger committee meeting would be convenient. It was suggested that the subcommittee meet from 11:30 to Noon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.

### **Announcement:**

Mary T. announced that a debate would take place at NDSU on May 8<sup>th</sup> (today) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. about the \_ cent sales tax proposal. Mary T. encouraged interested members to attend.

Respectfully,

Jen Erickson

