

**Metro Area Mayor's Committee
For People with Disabilities (MAMC)
Location: Fryn' Pan, Main Avenue, Fargo
September 14, 2006**

Present: Robert Anderson, Tom Thompson, Ellen Dunn, Paulette Ness, Lillian Mulder, JoAnn Nygard, Brenda Kopyy, Stephanie Sheets, MaryBeth Collier, Mark Breitbach, Jen Erickson

Vice-Chair Presiding: Robert Anderson

Treasurer's Report – Mark Breitbach

Checking: \$6,078.80

GT grant: \$3,660.00

Savings: \$1,207.76

Total: \$10,946.56

Deposits: 0

There are no Grace Tveiten grant applications pending

Robert Anderson called the meeting to order and introductions of individuals present were initiated.

A motion was made to accept the meeting minutes from 8/10/06. Recommended changes were identified and JoAnn N. made a motion to accept the minutes as revised. Jen E. offered a second to the motion. Motion carried.

Tom T. moved to accept today's meeting agenda. Mark B. provided a second to the motion. Motion carried.

Program Reports:

Tom T. reported on the Diversity Expo. scheduled to take place on October 3, 2006 at the Doublewood Inn & Conference Center

- The job fair runs from 2-5 pm – Job seekers are encouraged to prepare for on-the-spot interviews and to wear appropriate interview attire.
- Mayors will be present for a "kick off" and will read the proclamation.
- MaryBeth C. agreed to cover the MAMC booth at this event

Tom T. presented update on progress of the Accessible Playground Project, offering useful visual aides to view the layout/special features of the plan.

- Tom indicated there will be transfer area(s) for kids with upper mobility functioning to make transitions and noted that each tower will have games.
- Approximately 40% of the bottom layer/floor of the playground will consist of a pour-in-place surface – the content of this surface is a combination of finely chipped tires mixed with polyurethane.
- Sponsors/Funders will be identified on or near the playground with Platinum pledges identified on one of the towers. Gold, Silver, and Bronze donors will be identified on a sign located in front of the playground. MAMC is a bronze level donor. The donor board is expected to be up in Spring 2007

- The total cost for the project is \$185,000, which is lower than the original estimates of between \$225,000 and \$250,000..
- The tentative ribbon cutting is expected to be October 14, 2006.

Jen E. provided an update from Co-Chair, Tammy Stuart, on the Proposal for the Fargo Moorhead Leadership program

- Plans for submitting an MAMC proposal to the evaluating committee were communicated. If accepted, a team of individuals participating in the FM leadership program will work with MAMC to create educational and promotional packets aimed at increasing awareness and compliance surrounding accessible parking issues.
- This team would also be involved in gathering information from employers about the nature of the material in these packets to increase the likelihood that employers receiving them will see the value and make accessible parking a priority.
- Tammy indicated she's not received feedback from committee chairs at this point about whether or not the proposal has been accepted.

Plans to have an MAMC booth hosted at October's Business After Hours in conjunction with National Disability Awareness Month were discussed.

- This event takes place on **October 5th** from **4:30 to 6:30 pm** at the **Ramada Plaza Suites**.
- 2 admissions are included with a registration fee of \$150.00. Additional members are invited to attend with the expectation being that members will alternate turns covering the booth.
- A suggestion from Tammy was communicated to the group about the prospect of purchasing Judy Seigle's book to be offered as a door prize.

A motion was made by Jen E. for MAMC to host the booth for October's business after hours event with plans to purchase Judy Seigle's book for a door prize. Robert A. provided a second to this motion. Motion carried.

Education Award – attendees discussed the prospect of adding an education award for recognizing professionals working in education who demonstrate exemplary service to students/persons with disabilities. Some attendees expressed support for this idea. Jen E. will work on criteria to propose at the next meeting.

C.O.P.P.S. Program

Tom T. reported that this was a productive summer with 40% of 125 employers coming into compliance with appropriate accessible parking designation(s) after receiving notifications. Beat 32 is the most recent area to be surveyed, which runs from I29 to 25th street and from Main Avenue to I94.

The next meeting date is October 12, 2006. In celebration of **National Disability Awareness Month**, lunch is covered by MAMC and members are encouraged to bring a friend. The location is to be determined, noting that it will be important to plan to accommodate a larger group.

Respectfully submitted,
Jen Erickson

