

ADA Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes as approved

September 4, 2019

This meeting was held at 1:00pm in the first-floor conference room of the Hood Building at 200 S. President St. in Jackson, MS. Attending today's meeting were:

1. Ms. Mary-Rodgers Beal (Talking Book Library Services)
2. Ms. Sheletta Buckley (Executive Director - SCCAA)
3. Mr. Jason Bunch (Ward 6)
4. Ms. Gwendolyn Byrd (Ward 2)
5. Ms. Eva Clanton (Ward 2)
6. Ms. Lee Cole (Ward 2, ADA Advisory Council Chair)
7. Ms. Lauren Compere (One Shred of Hope)
8. Mr. Willie Cook (Ward 7)
9. Dr. Scott Crawford (Ward 7, MSCCD, Handilift Committee Chair)
10. Mr. Demario Height (Transdev)
11. Mr. Willie Hicks (SCCAA)
12. Mr. Mick Hintz (Committee Secretary, Ward 7)
13. Mr. Herbert Humphrey (MIB, Blinded Veterans Association)
14. Ms. Brittany Lawler (PCA for Lauren Compere)
15. Mr. Robert Lee (COJ Public Works)
16. Ms. Connie Little (Hinds County Election Commission)
17. Ms. Jean McKinney (Ward 4)
18. Ms. Linda Roberson (sign language interpreter)
19. Mr. Nicholas Ross (SCCAA)
20. Ms. LaShun Smith (JATRAM ADA coordinator).
21. Ms. Angela Taylor (Ward 5)
22. Mr. Desmeon Thomas (LIFE, Ward 2)
23. Ms. Shirley Walker-McKinnis (DRMS)
24. Ms. Janice Yancey (MDOT)

I. Call to Order

Ms. Lee Cole called the meeting to order at 1:10pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Mick Hintz read the minutes from August 5, 2019. Several corrections were made. Mr. Desmeon Thomas motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. Ms. Gwen Byrd seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously as corrected.

III. Public Works Report

Mr. Robert Lee

The Northside Dr. project is underway. They are currently digging up bad spots, starting at State St. in the eastbound lane. They will proceed toward I-55, then turn around and come back toward State St. Then they will mill, repave, and improve curbs and sidewalks. They are rebuilding about 40% of the sidewalks and several traffic signals. He expects completion by Christmas.

There is an issue near Fast Lane (I-55 Frontage Road). They thought there was 5 ft. of ROW, but there is only 3 ft. Federal law does not permit the purchase of additional ROW once construction has started. Robert said that they could pave a short distance of 3 foot wide sidewalk (which wouldn't meet ADA), or leave it just grass. Several members commented that a narrow sidewalk is better than no sidewalk at all. Dr. Crawford would like us to reduce it by one traffic lane to create room for the sidewalk. Robert said that unfortunately, that is not an option at this point.

State St. north of Hartsfield St. is progressing.

The Jefferson St., Claiborne Ave., Ridgewood Rd. project just had a final inspection. The contractor is making adjustments to items caught in the final inspection, including the replacement of a bad ramp at Jefferson and Spengler.

Mill St. is almost done. They are about to schedule a ribbon cutting.

The contract for the Barr Safe Routes to Schools project is under contract. A pre-Construction Meeting and a Notice to Proceed are pending.

The city approved the agreement with the GSA to re-stripe some of the existing on-street parking spaces at the Thad Cochran Federal Courthouse in order to provide some accessible parking.

Dr. Crawford had previously asked if Robert could find out what the city feels is a reasonable time for the actual resolution of ADA complaints (e.g., sidewalk and bus stop requests). Things tend to stay on the Transition Plan for years without action. Robert is still working on getting us an official answer.

IV. Public Comments

Dr. Scott Crawford attempted to vote by absentee ballot at the courthouse. There was no Automark machine set up. They explained to him that the machines were not yet programmed. So no one would have been able to vote absentee using Automark. Ms. Shirley Walker, DRMS is drafting a letter to each county clerk about this issue. Automark machines must be available as soon as absentee voting is made available.

V. Presentation

Ms. Connie Little - Chair of the Hinds County Election Commission.

The general public had similar problems with the runoff and absentee voting. The Secretary of State needs to address these issues. Even though the news channels may predict winners on election night, those are actually unofficial results. They are still counting votes several days after the election. The results are not official until the election is certified. They have 10 days to certify an election. You can't build a runoff ballot until the election is certified and you can't program the Automark machines until the official ballots are set. When the run-off is only two weeks after the primary and it takes 10-days to certify the results, there is insufficient time to create each ballot and program the Automark machines. The Secretary of State sets the calendar. We need to request that he schedule more time between the primary and the runoff to permit the proper programming and setup of the Automark machines.

At Boyd Elementary, a car was blocking the curb ramp. Cones were there but were not being used. Shirley Walker said that there are not always people available for curbside voting. We need to encourage the poll workers to monitor access to the polls and to be watchful for people who need curb-side voting.

People don't know that the Automark machines are available to everyone (not just the disabled). If we design a sign that indicates that Automark is available, then she will get it approved and include one in each precinct's packet.

Please make a list of issues and send them to her.

Please send her a list of people who may be interested in being poll workers.

Ms. Little's mobile number is 601-940-3806 or call the election commission office at 601-968-6555. Her email is clittle@co.hinds.ms.us

VI. Old Business

The city's website only has ADA Council minutes up to October 2018.

We have seen no progress on the Taxi Ordinance.

The ADA Council bylaws have not been approved by City Council.

Ms. Janice Yancey is still working and planning the pilot program for night and weekend paratransit service.

Ms. Sheletta Buckley is the Executive Director of SCCAA.

They are putting together a calendar of evening and weekend events that are likely to require paratransit.

SCCAA is developing a Scope of Services based on the survey results. They commit to presenting that proposed Scope to this committee before they proceed.

Rates are still pending.

They will require pre-registration, but no medical certification.
They intend to start with a soft opening in October, but then ramp up services.

There were no updates by any City Departments on their Transition Plans.
We will continue to expect updates from each department. The Transition Plan will remain on the agenda.

Working Together Jackson is working on a presentation with the goal of persuading developers, officials, and policy makers to create livable communities.

VII. New Business

Sam Gleese will be retiring at some point in the near future. So the City's ADA Coordinator position will come open at that point. Sam has been out since April, and this Council has seen no representation from the office of Human and Cultural Services. There should be a Job Description on file.

Mr. Mick Hintz motioned that this Council should obtain a copy of the job description to review and edit as necessary, and then resubmit it to City Council.

Ms. Angela Taylor seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Announcements

The next meeting of this Council is October 2nd, 2019 at 1pm in the Hood Building.

The Handilift Committee will meet September 18th, 2019 at 1pm in the Hood Building.

LIFE Bridging the Gap fundraiser is October 5th. Walk, roll, or stroll across the Old River Bridge in Vicksburg.

MIB will host Wine with the Blind on Oct 21st at Bravo Italian Restaurant from 5:30-7:30pm. Tickets can be purchased at mibfoundation.org

The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

Minutes recorded by Mr. Mick Hintz