

**RALEIGH MAYOR'S COMMITTEE  
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Minutes November 17, 2016

**The next meeting will be our annual holiday luncheon. If you are able, please bring a dish to share. Beverages and cutlery will be provided.**

**SECRETARY REPORT:** (Lori Millette)

October minutes approved.

**TREASURER REPORT:** (Les Seitz)

\$4,139.05 – Operating Account

This balance includes \$585.62 which has not cleared yet.

\$4,450.50 – Reserve Account

**CHAIR REPORT:** (James Benton)

No report

**VICE CHAIR REPORT:** (Robert Owens)

The NC Department of Transportation has not yet had a meeting on the Transit Project. This may be because of Hurricane Matthew and the pending gubernatorial results.

**Public Comment**

Paula mentioned that she had an issue with a driver refusing to open the ramp or lower the bus for her. The supervisor took her to her destination; however, the driver was incorrect in not accommodating her and this has been addressed by the City.

Ronnie Marshall mentioned that there is an accessible parking spot at the Food Lion on the corner of Lake Wheeler and Tryon Roads that has faded paint and is a hazard to use because the person must cross a line of cars to proceed to the destination. Ronnie spoke with the landlord who said he will correct the situation.

Andy Landes stated that it is disappointing when people with no disability park in accessible parking spots.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Awards Banquet:** (James Benton)

No Report.

**Employer Resource Day:** (Kristy Dixon)

No Report.

**Health and Wellness:** (Robert Owens)

The Affordable Care Act may have some upcoming revisions, but the president elect stated that some of the most important tenets of the bill will be preserved. The president elect also stated that he will not change Social Security or Medicare. Constituents should contact their representatives to inform them of their opinions and issues that are important.

**Housing:** (Lawrence Carter)

Ricky Scott reporting

On November 16, 2016 an individual with both a heart and visual disability communicated with me as the result of a referral by another citizen who is aware of the Raleigh Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities and its advocacy on issues related to housing. The individual, because of her disabilities, has received a release from her current landlord to move to another apartment where she can rent a ground level apartment due to the fact that where she is currently residing she has to climb fourteen steps up a stairway to access her apartment. The individual had contacted Alliance for assistance with first month rent and relocation which has been approved. Meanwhile, she had contacted the Raleigh Housing Authority to facilitate the process of transferring her Section Eight housing voucher to the new apartment. RHA staff mentioned that there is a process required before the transfer of the Section Eight voucher such as inspection of the prospective client briefing and apartment. At the same time, management at the prospective apartment, while sympathetic to her situation cannot hold the apartment indefinitely but could hold it until December 1, 2016. The individual's desire is that RHA expedite the process for her so that she can secure the apartment, however, the individual maintains that RHA does not much concerned about her situation because staff comments that their procedure must be followed before the transfer of the Section Eight housing voucher can be effectuated. Additionally, she reports that an individual who had been living in another apartment within the same complex passed away and the deceased individual's family is in the process of removing the person's possessions and that it is a ground level unit. She further reports that she, upon learning this information, contacted staff at her current apartment to request, once the apartment has been cleaned, the transfer from her current apartment to that ground level unit. Staff, according to her, mentioned that contact would be made with the regional office to determine if such a transferred can be done and that someone would contact her as soon as possible. Upon hearing all of this information, the following advice was provided to the individual. The individual was advised that she might contact her current landlord no later than Monday November 21, 2016 to ascertain the response to her request from the regional office. The individual was encouraged to contact me with an update on the situation next week. Upon the conclusion of the phone call with this individual, contact was made with Alliance to engage it further and to seek any additional assistance if justified. I left a message on the voicemail of Joy concerning this matter. A full briefing on this housing issue to both James Benton, Chairman, and Les Seitz who is the presumptive chair of the housing subcommittee was then given.

**Nominations:** (Lori Millette)

Elections were held. Below are the persons who will fill the offices and committee chairs.

Chairperson	James Benton
Vice Chair	Robert Owens
Treasurer	Alice Kelly
Secretary	Lori Millette

Awards Banquet	Tara Waters
Employment Resources	Tara Waters
Health and Wellness	Robert Owens
Housing	Les Seitz
Nominations	Lori Millette
Public Access	Suzette Harrington
Public Information	Philip Woodward
Recreation	Bob Evans
Scholarship	Lori Millette
Transportation	Kathy Brack

**Public Access:** (Suzette Harrington)  
No Report

**Public Information:** (Philip Woodward)  
No Report

**Recreation:** (Bob Evans)  
Chair commended Wake County voters for passing the new sales tax earmarked for transportation.

**Scholarship:** (Lori Millette)  
City Liaison will follow up with award for Connor Watt.

**Transportation:** (Kathy Brack)  
No report.

**City Liaison Report:** (Cathey Ector-Cox)  
City Liaison reminded us that the cost for cutlery and beverages will be deducted from our account; costs for food will not be reimbursed.

**New Business**  
Paula noted that Holly Hill Hospital is planning a \$15 million expansion that will add 32 beds to its facility. See article here: <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/business/article97566537.html>

Paula also mentioned that September 1, 2019, hybrid cars will be required to make audible noise when traveling in reverse or forward at speeds up to 19 miles per hour. <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/technology/article114661738.html>

**Next Meeting**  
The next meeting will be held the annual holiday luncheon December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Avery C. Upchurch Building, 222 West Hargett Street, Room 305 from noon until 1:30. Chair contact: [James.Benton@ncmail.net](mailto:James.Benton@ncmail.net) (919) 715- 0172.