

**RALEIGH MAYOR'S COMMITTEE
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**
Minutes January 19, 2017

SECRETARY REPORT: (Lori Millette)
December minutes approved.

TREASURER REPORT: (Alice Kelly)
\$2947.24 – Operating Account
\$4,450.50 – Reserve Account

CHAIR REPORT: (James Benton)
The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was passed by President Obama in 2014 to improve economic and career success for low-income youth and adults. WIOA improves services to persons with disabilities.
<https://www.doleta.gov/wioa/Overview.cfm>

We will have several guest speakers at the regularly scheduled meetings:
February 16th - David Eatman and his team have prepared a presentation to address transportation with a focus on how the new transit tax will impact our transportation programs in the near future.
March 16th – Christie Van Auken, Vice President of Communications and Community Affairs for RDU will speak about accessibility at the airport

Chair responded to a housing issue which is still in progress.

VICE CHAIR REPORT: (Robert Owens)
The NC Department of Transportation Transit Project met last week and Robert attended as well as other qualified individuals to include Sig Hutchinson of the Wake County Board of Commissioners. The leader of the Transit Project has many years of transportation experience. They discussed approaches and benefits to public transit and accessibility. The DOT can provide incentives to local governments to partner with community agencies. They will meet again in June; in the meantime, local entities will meet.

Public Comment
The Employee of the Year in Cary was Judy Newsome, recognized for her work advocating for persons with disabilities.

Andy Landes noted that NC Get Covered is a statewide outreach for ACA information and enrollment. Click here for more information: <https://www.ncgetcovered.org>

Andy also said that Section 105 permits persons who have private health coverage to purchase it on a tax deferred basis.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Awards Banquet: (Tara Waters)
No Report.

Employer Resource Day: (Tara Waters)

Tara is in the planning stages of the Employer Resource Day. A date and location have been secured: Meredith College on July 26th. More information will be forthcoming.

Health and Wellness: (Robert Owens)

Governor Cooper wants to expand Medicaid in North Carolina which would provide health insurance for people who don't qualify for either the ACA or Medicaid coverage; however a judge blocked the motion pending the repeal of the ACA. It appears that on the state level, Medicaid expansion is favorable, while on the federal level the outlook is less certain. Write your legislators to let them know your opinion!

Housing: (Les Seitz)

The City is participating with the Oak City Outreach Center whose goal is to end hunger and homelessness. This is a partnership between many different entities and is operated by Wake County Human Services.

<http://www.endhomelessnesswake.org/what-we-do/oak-city-outreach-center/>

The Affordable Housing Task Force wants to ensure the city employs inclusionary zoning which would require that large housing developments include some percentage of units affordable to low-income buyers.

Wake Up Wake County, a grassroots advocacy organization, will have its annual meeting on January 26th from 7:00 to 8:30 at the Glenwood Club, 3300 Woman's Club Drive, 27612. Jessica Holmes will be the keynote speaker. Registration is encouraged, but not required. <http://www.wakeupwakecounty.org/>

Nominations: (Lori Millette)

No Report

Public Access: (Suzette Harrington)

No Report

Public Information: (Philip Woodward)

Starting January 26th, North Carolina's eligible citizens with cognitive or physical disabilities - or a parent or guardian - can open a NC ABLE Program account at NC.SaveWithABLE.com.

Recreation: (Bob Evans)

Bob noted that Dr. Ricky Scott wrote a motivating email to Duke Energy advocating for persons with disabilities.

Scholarship: (Lori Millette)

The 2017 scholarship application was sent to stakeholders and the Committee. Please share! Recipients will be awarded at the Employer Resource Day July 26th.

The 2016 awards have been processed.

Transportation: (Kathy Brack)

Chair has not received any calls this month.

City Liaison Report: (Cathey Ector-Cox)

The Housing and Neighborhood Department has officially moved to 421 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh, NC 27602.

Raleigh Police Department is sponsoring a Medicine Drop Off Saturday, January 21, 2017 9AM to 1PM

Josef's Pharmacy 2100 New Bern Avenue

Blue Ridge Pharmacy 2601 Blue Ridge Road

New Business

Please be aware of the 19 Citizens Advisory Councils which represent geographic regions of the city. Find your CAC here:

<http://www.raleighnc.gov/community/content/CommServices/Articles/CitizensAdvisoryCouncil.html>

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held February 16th at the Avery C. Upchurch Building, 222 West Hargett Street, Room 305 from noon until 1:30. Chair contact:

James.Benton@ncmail.net (919) 715- 0172.