

**City of Roswell**  
**Inclusion Task Force and ADA Task Force Joint Meeting**  
**October 3, 2007, 6:00 pm**  
**Room 220, City Hall**

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**Meeting started at 6:15 pm.**

Councilman David Tolleson kicked off the meeting by giving a brief overview of the history of both task forces. He then introduced City Manager, Kay Love, who was in attendance.

Katie Troline asked those around the table to introduce themselves.

**Present:** Councilman David Tolleson, Katie Troline – Inclusion Task Force staff (Recreation and Parks Department), Stefanie Dye – ADA Task Force staff (Community Development Department), Kay Love – City Administrator, Kathy Field – Community Development Director, Diane Whitfield – Human Resources Director, Wendy Ademy – Human Resources Division, Elaine Townes – Human Resources Division, Jeff Pruitt – Administrator of Park Services, Julie Brechbill – Community Information Manager, Beth Hampshire – Music Therapy Services, Debbie Hinerfeld – Ga. Occupational Therapy Association, Debbie and Christopher Currere, Great Prospects, Barbara Ann Bongiovanni, Roswell Resident, Diane Prindle – Briggs & Associates, Arie Kohn – Architect, AKA, Antoinette Singh, Groveway.

David Tolleson stated that the City Council issues two proclamations during the year: in March for April's Special Populations Awareness Month and in December for National Inclusive Schools Month.

**ASPIRE:**

Katie Troline explained the ASPIRE program: All Special Needs Persons Included in Recreational Experiences: A partnership with the City of Alpharetta, Fulton County, Fulton Schools, Miracle League, Georgia Recreation and Parks Association, Special Olympics, BLAZE Sports, and North Fulton cities, as a regional recreational partnership program for children and adults that will be the first of its kind in Georgia. Katie met with these groups over the summer to discuss not only networking and information sharing as was originally planned, but joint programs.

*Question:* What is the anticipated completion date of partnership?

*Answer:* Summer camp for ages 16 -21 years of age is a major goal of the partnership if and when it is complete. Camp Happy Hearts in Alpharetta takes kids up to 15 years old. Parents of children who are over this cut off have expressed the need for summer camp for older children as well. In general,

target dates are going to vary depending on the partner. Some new cities may simply contribute funding. We need to establish a critical mass for the program to work.

Katie showed the City's Inclusion/ADA Update video.

*Comment:* Marketing programs as being inclusive is good, but the City needs to actively target families with special needs in order to get good participation.

David Tolleson replied that we need help coming up with alternative ways to reach families. Katie Troline added that thanks to advocates like the ones around the table, we have better understanding of the population. These task forces provide the outlet we need to reach people. David Tolleson also said that we need to make it easier for families to stay in Roswell as their kids reach adulthood with services and employment opportunities.

*Comments about transportation and housing needs:* What resources are available? For transportation, Clean Air Campaign, vans, ambulances, RUMC van are some potential partners.

*Other comments:* Perhaps the task force should involve itself in statewide advocacy? These issues take serious lobbying to address, such as 9 to 5 Disability Caucus at the Capitol. David Tolleson replied that several of the organizations around the table participate in Disability Day at the Capitol, but for the most part, staging this type of event as a City is above and beyond the regular duties of city staff. We can be a part of what is already organized, but not staff our own effort.

Stefanie Dye mentioned that February 21, 2008 is Disability Day at the Capitol for those who are interested.

#### **ADA Task Force:**

Stefanie Dye is a new staff person in the Community Development Department and the person tasked with ADA Compliance responsibility. She explained that the task force has budgeted \$14,000 from 2007 for use on the City Hall Rotunda open staircase, and \$50,000 for 2008 improvements. Stefanie reported on ADA task force accomplishments and goals. She listed ADA compliance tasks that were accomplished over the summer. See attachment for list.

*Comment:* The Transportation Department has installed an audible cross-walk at the square. When looking a project replacements, the City should always take into account ADA compliance issues and upgrade facilities where needed.

*Comment:* Several areas of the City have sidewalk replacements that are not compliant, and other areas where sidewalks discontinue, even where there are ADA curb ramps that do not lead to a sidewalk. This is a real issue at bus stops.

Regarding the bus routes someone (who?) mentioned that GDOT is in the midst of designing sidewalks at Holcomb Bridge Road and Highway 9.

*Response:* The grievance process should be used to address issues like these when they arise. In the above instance, a call to the City Transportation Department yielded prompt results even on State DOT routes.

*Comment:* [www.mygcal.com](http://www.mygcal.com) is a great clearinghouse of information sponsored by the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases.

*Question:* Is there a way to make the automatic door opener on the ground floor more visible? I didn't know it was there until I saw the video.

*Answer:* There has been talk about moving the button from the wall to a column for easier access.

*Request:* Place grievances and responses on the website much like the City now does for BEST recommendations.

*Comment:* Look for opportunities for better ADA facilities on Hwy 9 since there are infill plans along the corridor. ADA sidewalk survey should begin with Hwy 9.

Stefanie Dye brought one last issue to the task force for clarification: How to prioritize items that will be addressed with the annual ADA compliance appropriation. Davis Tolleson's response was that the ADA budget should be used to accomplish "proactive retrofitting" and not to replace items that are worn-out and in need of replacement.

David Tolleson brought up the idea of establishing a Disability Commission, which would be the official body in the City to handle ADA grievances and the transition plan. He reminded the task force that this is a task that has been discussed for a while now, and that is it time to look at bringing an item to the Mayor and Council to create the commission.

**Announcements:** First week of December is National Inclusive Schools Week. April is Special Populations Awareness Month.

**Special Populations Fair:** Katie asked the Task Force whether or not they wanted to conduct another Special Populations Fair. She said that the City started holding this annual event in 2003, but did not have the event in 2007. The number of vendors steadily decreased over the years due presumably to a lack in attendance or people attaining the information they needed, meaning it has served its purpose. Katie suggested having the fair in conjunction with another program such as the Proclamation in March. Diane Whitfield then suggested holding the fair during Relay for Life.

Other suggestions included: The December 13<sup>th</sup> Regional Planning Board meeting for the Down Syndrome Congress will be held in Roswell with about 75 in attendance. Perhaps we could partner with them.

And also, On January 8<sup>th</sup>, AADD is having a town hall meeting conducted by Steven Hall at the Roswell Adult Recreation Center. High School Transition and Vocational Rehabilitation will be two of the topics. The last event had about 70 in attendance and 100-150 are expected on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

General consensus was that the AADD event sounded like a good event to be involved with and we will be pursuing having the Fair during that event.

**Next Meeting:** Staff will be contacting the respective task forces by email about a meeting schedule. Most present indicated that they prefer morning meetings.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.**