# MSCOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

MSCOD OFFICE

121 E. 7th Pl. suite 107, St. Paul, MN 55101

March 11, 2015

(Approved 4/8/2015)

## ATTENDANCE

Jim Thalhuber in person

Dean Ascheman in person

Robert Johnson – by phone

Nate Aalgaard – by phone

Staff members present Joan Willshire and Elizabeth Demski. David Fenley attended by phone.

## CALL TO ORDER

Jim Thalhuber – council chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Dean Ascheman motioned for approval of the agenda. It was seconded by Robert Johnson. It was approved by unanimous voice vote. Dean Ascheman motioned for approval of the February 11, 2015 minutes. Robert Johnson seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous voice vote.

## NEW COUNCIL RECRUITMENT/OVERVIEW

Joan Willshire explained the administrative challenges in appointing council members and reviewed the need for applicants that are diverse, have expertise, balance and a difference of perspective. The council especially needs applicants familiar with policy, transportation, and the Olmstead effort. Jim Thalhuber reviewed the applications that have been received. The executive committee discussed the merits of each and suggested people that should be encouraged to apply. This will be revisited at the next executive meeting.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

David Fenley presented the legislative update. Joan Willshire and David Fenley testified on March 9, 2015 before the Legacy committee, requesting $620,000 for the new ADA Legacy project called Disability Cultural Competency. The budget bill is being revised due to an error in writing it. The building code bill will be put on hold for this session. The MA bill had it’s first hearing in the Senate. The restoration of voting rights for felons bill was introduced. The MS society is supporting a tax credit vs. grant money for home modification; grants would be preferred.

The accommodation reimbursement rate was introduced; this would set aside money to pay for the removal of barriers for disabled employees.

Joan Willshire testified in support of the assistive technology bill. Bill #1136 – the dress on access symbol – was introduced in the Senate. Dean Ascheman motioned that MSCOD oppose this bill; it was seconded by Nate Aalgaard. It passed by unanimous voice vote. MSCOD will assist MN-CCD on transportation issues during their transition period.

## WORK PLAN 2016/2017 PLANNING PROCESS

The chair reviewed the 2016/2017 MSCOD planning process draft. The council would try to keep it simple and focused. George Shardlow will prepare a draft of the environmental scan for members to review and make suggestions. The executive committee discussed the use of a facilitator, the time allotted, and if it should be conducted by videoconference.

## FINANCE UPDATE & ENCUMBRANCES

Jim Thalhuber informed the committee that technically the council has no budgetary approval; it only has an advisory capacity. He recommended that in future the chair and staff would meet quarterly with SMART and he would report to the full council at MSCOD’s quarterly meetings. Linda Gremillion will draft the procedure to present to the full council at the next meeting.

## OTHER BUSINESS

The RPF is posted for the ADA venue. The BLN career fair and ability expo will now be part of the October 28 ADA event.

## ADJOURN

Dean Ascheman motioned to adjourn. Robert Johnson seconded. The chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Demski