



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 6, 2016 1:00 P.M.
Los Angeles City Hall Board of Public Works
200 North Spring Street, Room 350, Los Angeles, California 90012

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Dr. Robert Bitonte
David Wolf
Richard Rothenberg
Robert Williams
Alisa Schlesinger
Iran Hopkins
Betty Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Harriet Posner (excused)
Theresa de Vera (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen Simon, Executive Director

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

None

GUESTS:

Access Services
Tree People

ITEM NO. (1): CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS

President Bitonte called the meeting to order at 1:10 P.M. Roll call was conducted and a quorum of the commissioners was present.

Action Taken: Roll call.

ITEM NO. (2): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Action Taken: Commission approved the December meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. (3) Public Comment

Public Commentary Received – For Announcement Purpose Only*

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): Emergency Preparedness

Representatives from Access Services presented on Emergency Preparedness for the expected El Niño weather conditions and the potential impact on the disability community. Access Services has been preparing for about six years. They started preparing their drivers on the road, at home, and in other areas that pick up and drop off customers. They are part of Trans Map, a system to help in the event of an emergency situation. Rick Pope from DOD also gave a presentation regarding emergency preparedness and on the pilot project regarding sandbags. The Independent Living Center has been invited to observe and provide feedback for moving forward with the sandbag pilot project.

Action Taken: President Bitonte wanted Access Services to provide metrics for the next meeting.

ITEM NO. (5): Modernization of the 6th ST Bridge

Angela Kaufman gave an update on the modernization of the 6th Street Bridge. DOD is very thankful that Council District 14 approached DOD and the Commission on Disability to work on making the bridge more accessible.

Action Taken: Send a thank you letter to Council District 14

ITEM NO. (6) Sidewalk Repair Program

Rachel from Tree People gave a presentation on their recommendations for the City Los Angeles Sidewalk Repair Program. Their concern is when those sidewalks are repaired, the City of Los Angeles keeping as many trees as possible for the health of the public. They are asking the City of Los Angeles when removing trees during sidewalk repairs, to transparent and have clear criteria of when to keep a tree. They recommend that when the City of Los Angeles has to remove trees, they consider the appropriate replacement ratio. The DOD has met with the representatives from Tree People and will continue to meet on future endeavors.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (7): Regulations on Service Animals

Carey Stone from DOD will give an overview regarding the regulations, policy, and procedures pertaining to the use of service animal in public facilities at next month's Commission on Disability meeting.

Action Taken: Will be placed on the agenda for next month's meeting

ITEM NO. (8) Department of Transportation's Disabled Parking Placard Policy

Executive Director Stephen David Simon gave an update on the Department of Transportation's Disabled Parking Policy. A memo will be sent to the Mayor's Office for the purpose of acknowledging the collaborative efforts with DOT and DOD in moving forward in a promising way. DOT is making parking abuse their number one priority. They are also hiring a third party consultant to coordinate a working group to address issues concerning the placard policy.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (9): Coordinated Care Initiative

President Bitonte gave an update on the status of the Commission's FOIA request. The interest of the Commission was to see if the Medicare and Medi-Cal programs are serving the disabled community. The California Medical Association House of Delegates' concern was that the program did not serve the population that it was intended to serve and a resolution was proposed in October. Therefore, the Commission requested the Center for Medicare and Medi-CAL's periodic and regular reports such as the initial six month implementation report, quarterly monitoring reports, the annual reports, and the final evaluation reports.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (10): Executive Director's Report

Stephen David Simon provided background information and highlights for the Department. The Department is focused on the 2016-17 budget, expanding programs, reinforcing existing programs within the department, working on staff restructuring, and making documents accessible to all Angelenos. DOD's

Public Information Officer has meet with the various people within the City about section 508 Remediation to ensure that electronic documents are accessible. A memo was sent about additional training regarding what accessible messaging looks like, especially in emergency situations. DOD is also increasing the number of ADA trainings it does within the city family and outside. The LAPD Personnel training is coming soon regarding the appropriate training for sworn officers. Other highlights include the DOD attending the LAPD COMPSTAT, Stephen David Simon attended the County's Homeless Initiative Summit. DOD is also on the cusp of making the electronic Emergency Preparedness Manual accessible.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (11): New Business

President Dr. Robert Bitonte suggested the Commission take a look at the Voters Wanted Civil Service document to see if the Commission wanted it on the agenda for next month. One of the Commissioners also requested that Metro to be on the agenda for next month.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (12): Announcements

No announcements were made.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (13): Adjournment

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:12 P.M.