



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 2, 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
Theresa de Vera
Alisa Schlesinger
Iran Hopkins
Norma Lopez
Betty Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Harriet Posner (excused)
Robert Williams (excused)
Richard Rothenberg (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen Simon, Executive Director

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Patricia Delgado, Aquatic Director and Aren Galustians, Planning,
Construction, and Maintenance Branch from Recreation and Parks.
Scott and Steve, Bureau of Engineering

GUESTS:

Lydia Garcia, Access Services
Denny Chan, Staff Attorney from Justice in Aging
Christine Pham, Department on Disability Intern

*AUDIO TAPE(S) and CAPTIONING NOTES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

ITEM NO. (1): Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

President Bitonte called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Roll call was conducted and a quorum of the commissioners was present.

Action Taken: Commission approved the February meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. (2) Public Comment

Public Commentary Received – For Announcement Purpose Only*

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): Access Real-Time (CART) Services at Council Committee Meetings

For over 15 years, the City Council has been providing captioning services for their Council Meetings. People may watch the Commission Meetings with captions either on a screen or are able to view it on the website. The City Council has separate Commission meetings that are audio taped, not videotaped. Richard Ray from DOD is working with ITA to make all of those meetings accessible by making a transcript available in the form of CART online for people to read.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): Public Swimming Pools and Changing Facilities

An update presentation by Patricia Delgado, Aquatic Director and Aren Galustians, Planning, Construction, and Maintenance Branch from the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks. The aquatic website informs site visitors who to contact to arrange accommodations, get information regarding the availability of universal changing rooms or showers, and information regarding

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pool lifts for access into the pool. Aquatic staff can make accommodations in lieu of the universal changing rooms upon request from a patron by using the staff restroom or locker room or staff can vacate a changing room for a patron and their caregiver. They will also be providing additional training to their managers next month on accommodations and procedures.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5) Access' 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 has fewer riders on rainy days because of El Niño. Access is electing to go forward with a new form of communication for their customers. The new form of communication includes the ability of access to send a text to customers.

Action Taken: Access to present dynamic fair presentation next Commission meeting.

ITEM NO. (6): Survivor Benefits for Disabled Dependents

Presentation by Lydia Garcia on the Los Angeles City survivor benefits for disabled dependents. Currently, people who are not married or have a domestic partner are not allowed to leave a survival dependent. Lydia Garcia put forth a recommendation to request get the report of the cost of implantation for the disabled dependent benefits and to seek a Council motion to amend the administrative code.

Action Taken: DOD will seek information regarding this topic.

ITEM NO. (7) Coordinated Care Initiative

Stephen David Simon updated the Commissioners on the status of the Commission's FOIA request. The FOIA request has been sent to the primary

federal office and they are processing the request for the reports and the consumer complaint and communication request. Denny Chan, Staff Attorney from Justice in Aging, gave a presentation covering an overview of the Coordinated Care Initiative, recent changes in the program, enrollment, how long term services and support are provided under the Medicaid program, and how Cal Medi Connect combines Medicaid and Medi-Cal services into one integrated health plan.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): Disability Art Exhibit

A presentation by Christine Pham, Department on Disability Intern, regarding a research study on the Disability Art Exhibits. The purpose of Disability Art Exhibit is to highlight artist's abilities and promote artistic expression for the disability community. The survey consisted of seven questions that were sent to the Academy of Special Dreams, The Braille Institute, and Tierra del Sol. The conclusion of the research findings are that the Disability Art Exhibits are effective in engaging the disability community to participate in community events.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (9): Sidewalk Repair Program

Presentation update by Scott and Steve Chen, Bureau of Engineering on the City of Los Angeles Sidewalk Repair program. Currently, there are about 118 requests they have received to improve the path of travel. They broke up that number into two groups: one group is curb ramp installation requests and the other one is path of travel. Once the program has been worked out entirely, they will look at how best to handle each request.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (10): 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. The next step is to work with the community task force.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (11): Executive Director's Report

Executive Director 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. The Transgender Job fair has been moved to a date in June at Los Angeles City College. A request was made to the department on the recent report on LAPD shooting involving the disability community.

Action Taken: Requested that the LAPD shooting be an item for the next Commission on Disability.

ITEM NO. (12): New Business

New business suggested for the next regular meeting's agenda are Access' Emergency Preparedness, Access' Dynamic fair, and to make the Disability Art exhibit an action item.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (13): Announcements

No announcements were made.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (12): Adjournment

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 4:02 P.M.