



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 4, 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
Robert Williams
Iran Hopkins
Betty Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Harriet Posner (excused)
Richard Rothenberg (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen Simon, Executive Director

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Dennis Gleason, Policy Director of Council District 15
Alisa Orduna, Mayor's Planning and Housing Policy division

GUESTS:

None

*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 April meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. (2) Public Comment

Public Commentary Received – For Announcement Purpose Only*

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): Housing and Homeless Policy

Updated presentation on Los Angeles Housing and Homelessness Policy by the Alisa Orduna from the Mayor's Planning and Housing Policy division. There are about 28,000 people in the City of Los Angeles who are homeless and 75% of those are unsheltered; meaning they are living in cars, vans, tents, and other places that are not meant for livable or habitable situations. Currently, the Mayor's Office has launched a street engagement project that funds outreach teams to provide people with water bottles or lunch bags. They plan on integrating pairing teams with City departments to create an integrated approach.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): Survivor Benefits for Disabled Dependents.

Currently, people who have a dependent adult child are not able to leave them survival benefits. Lydia Garcia put forth a recommendation to request get the report of the cost of implementation for the disabled dependent benefits and to seek a Council motion to amend the administrative code. Currently, the Chief Administrator Officer for the City of Los Angeles is doing research on the cost

of implementation and to get a clear understanding of what that process entails.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5) 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. They are processing the request for the reports and the consumer complaint and communication request. DOD has been contacting the office every two weeks to continue checking on the status of the request.

Action Taken: DOD will seek assistance from the City Attorney's Office to obtain a response from CMS.

ITEM NO. (6): Disability Art Exhibit.

A presentation by President Dr. Bitonte was made regarding the Disability Art Exhibit. The purpose of Disability Art Exhibit is to highlight artist's abilities and promote artistic expression for the disability community. One recommendation is that a letter be sent to every other Commission on Disability across the county and to expand the number of artists and organizations who participate in the exhibit.

Action Taken: A letter is to be sent to every other Commission on Disability across the county and to expand the number of organizations artists and who participate in the exhibit.

ITEM NO. (7): Sidewalk Repair Program.

Dennis Gleason, Policy Director of Council District 15, gave an update on the Department of Transportation's Disabled Parking Policy. The policy consisted of 35 different recommendations. The policy also recommends the City of Los

Angeles to set aside money for request that are received from the disabled community, a rebate for property owners, and to fix residential sidewalks.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

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

DOD gave an update on the Department of Transportation's Disabled Parking Placard Policy. DOD is submitting names to participate in the Accessible Parking Committee. Currently, DOD has 22 individuals who are interested in the committee. The panel is designed to allow community input around implementing the new policy. Assembly Bill 2602 passed on April 12th.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (9): International People with Disabilities Fashion Conference.

The first "Fashion Without Borders" Conference is planned to take place during LA Fashion Week. It is designed to bring together all stakeholders in the fashion industry and PWD industries such as: experts in special fashion design, culture, art, research, technology, politics, business, media, and communication.

Action Taken: Place on the agenda for next month.

ITEM NO. (9): Commission on Disability Retreat

Discussion about scheduling a Commission on Disability planning retreat every year or every two years. The purpose of the retreat is for the Commission to review the mandate and history and to look at policies that the COD may want to move forward. This year's retreat might be held at the State building or in the DOD conference room. The date of the retreat is going to be discussed at the next meeting.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (10): 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 AIDS Coordinator's Office is working on transgender issues. On June 1st will be the Trans Health L.A., where the AIDS Coordinator's Office intends to provide educational opportunities to the community, City employees, and others working with the transgender masculine people. The department has been asked to participate in the Hackathon at the end of this month.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (10): New Business and Announcements

New business suggested for the next regular meeting's agenda is to hold elections and a presentation on Pain Management, a discussion of the Commission on Disability's Retreat, Public Messaging on Access Vehicles, and an update on the Hollyhock House.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (12): Adjournment

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:30 P.M.