



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, July 5, 2017, 1:05 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
Myrna Cabanban
Theresa de Vera
Iran Hopkins
Richard Rothenberg
Alisa Schlesinger
Robert Williams
Betty Wilson
David Wolf

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Ken Husting, Department of Transportation
Peer Ghent, Department of Transportation

GUESTS:

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

President Bitonte called the meeting to order. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum of the commissioners was present.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the May 3, 2017 meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. (2): Public Comment

No Public Comment Received.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): COD OFFICER ELECTION

After considering all nominees, the Commission elected the following Commissioners as its officers:

President: Commissioner Theresa De Vera

1st Vice President: Commissioner Iran Hopkins

2nd Vice President: Commissioner Richard Rothenberg

Secretary: Commissioner Alisa Schlesinger

Action Taken.

ITEM NO. (4): Accessible Parking Policy Report

Presentation was by Professor Fernando Torres-Gil, UCLA, Professor of Social Welfare and Public Policy, Director of the Center for Policy Research on Aging, and a member of the Accessible Parking Committee.

Professor Torres-Gil indicated that the problem has been defined as more demand for existing parking spaces, which includes the use of existing parking spaces by people using disability parking placards.

Given this problem, Mayor Garcetti called for the creation of the Los Angeles Accessible Parking Policy Advisory Committee 2016. The committee included individuals from various backgrounds, such as advocates, transportation experts, physicians, representatives from DMV, etc.

The committee worked for nine months and produced 10 recommendations, summarized in the ***Los Angeles Accessible Parking Policy Advisory Committee: Recommendations and Summary Report.***

Professor Torres-Gil discussed in full one recommendation in particular: the two-tier pricing policy which had been adopted by the states of Illinois and Michigan. The two-tier system consist of two distinct classifications, or tiers.

One tier will consist of those with **severe mobility limitations**. This first tier will be given a disability parking placard with a distinct color and continue to receive the disability parking placard without change to current use.

The second tier will consist of those with **less severe disabilities**. This second tier will be given a disability parking placard of a different color, but will be subject to time limits and paying for their parking.

Once the states of Illinois and Michigan implemented the two-tier system, both states saw a dramatic drop in the number of applications for disability placards. The drop might suggest people had been seeking the disability parking placard for reasons other than a severe disability.

Besides the two-tier system, the committee had made nine other recommendations. One recommendation is an increase in the number of blue zones and accessible parking spaces. Another recommendation is to use increases in collected parking revenues arising from less disability parking placards for built improvements in the local jurisdiction.

The report is available for review and will be submit to City Council for consideration.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (5): Los Angeles 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Bid

The Commission approved an amended motion to declare COD's support of the Los Angeles 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Bid.

The amendment was to the following clause (the amended language is *italicized*):

“**WHEREAS**, the City of Los Angeles is ***one of*** the most livable, prosperous and safest city***ies*** in the country, where our diversity is an added strength; and”

Action Taken.

ITEM NO. (6): Measure M

The Commission approved an amended motion recommending that the Mayor and City Council support METRO in continuing to allocate 75 percent of earmarked funds be allocated to Access Services, and 25 percent to Senior and Student passes.

Although the Commission had not acted on the motion, METRO had met on May 22nd and approved the allocations in the manner the Commission would have recommended.

Since METRO had already acted, the Commission amended the motion to recommend that the Mayor support METRO in continuing to allocate the funds as recommended in the Commission’s motion.

Action Taken.

ITEM NO. (7): Monthly Status Reports from Commission’s Ad Hoc Sub-Committees

The following Ad Hoc Sub-Committees provided a brief synopsis or a negative report:

Outreach Sub-Committee.

Commissioner Bitonte reported about the scheduling of County of Los Angeles to present next month about outreach efforts to the homeless for benefits from the Social Security Administration.

Financial Resources Sub-Committee:

Commissioner Bitonte reported that the need for raising revenues had been identified and projects had been listed. Yet the Committee must identify the mechanism for receiving the funds, in accordance with the City's procedures. So Commissioner Bitonte recommended that the topic of financing be discussed at the retreat, in order to give it the time that it deserves.

Housing Sub-Committee.

Commissioner Wolf reported the continued study of accessibility of housing for people with disabilities.

Opioid Abuse and Pain Management

Commissioner Rothenberg reported that the Committee is seeking to clarify its mission and remains a major undertaking for the two people on the Committee. So before sending invitations to professionals to speak and make recommendations, the Committee will clarify the problem.

Emergency Preparedness Sub-Committee.

Commissioner De Vera reported that the Committee met at the independent living center in Downey on June 20th. Commissioner De Vera indicated the Rick Pope had proposed outreach and a town hall meeting to implement emergency preparedness

On the 20 the commission met at the CIL in Downey. Rick Pope proposed outreach and town hall meetings with regional centers and independent living centers, in order to implement emergency preparedness awareness.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): Executive Officer's Report

Stephen David Simon requested his staff, Luis Mata, to update the Commission on a project on which he is working.

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Mr. Mata reported that Rutgers University did a study, which estimated that 35.4 million people with disabilities are eligible to vote. The number increases when their families are included, thereby representing nearly 25 percent of the American electorate. So the Department on Disability has partnered with organizations representing people with disabilities to register people with disabilities to vote. The program is called *Rev Up*. Rev Up has designated one week in July to register people with disabilities to vote. Rev Up seeks to create awareness that person's with disability need to register and vote. However, Rev Up will continue with the registration efforts beyond the one week.

Mr. Simon reported that the Department on Disability is nearly fully staffed, having 20 of 22 positions filled. It has added Rosemarie Punzalan, who has subject matter expertise in ensuring that City documents that are posted on websites and electronically transmitted are accessible, in accordance with federal law.

Mr. Simon also reported that the City will soon authorized the Department to conduct another Transition Plan and Self-Evaluation, which is a review for determining how well services, programs, and activities are in compliance with the Americans with Disability Act.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (9): New Business and Announcements

ITEM NO. (10): Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned in honor of Sam Overton, former President of the Commission on Disability. A memorial service for Sam Overton will be held on at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, August 12th, Saturday, at the Valley Park Baptist Church at 16514 Nordoff Street, North Hills, CA 91343.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:10 P.M.