



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

1:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Los Angeles City Hall Board of Public Works

200 North Spring Street, Room 350, Los Angeles, California 90012

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Sam Overton
Theresa de Vera
David Wolf
Sandy Driver-Gordon
Louis Herrera
Terry Magady
Betty Wilson

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen Simon, Executive Director
Angela Kaufman, ADA Compliance Officer

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris N. Lee, City Attorney

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Sandy Driver-Gordon (excused)
Michael Griggs (excused)

COMMISSION STAFF:

Sheridan Keyser
Daisy Bonilla, Clerk Typist

GUESTS:

Councilmember Tom LaBonge

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

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

DISPOSITION: ACTION TAKEN.

President of Commission, Sam Overton, called the regular meeting to order at 1:14 P.M. Roll call was conducted and a quorum of the commissioners was present.

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

DISPOSITION: ACTION TAKEN

Minutes were approved for COD meetings of February 5, 2014.

ITEM NO. (3): PUBLIC COMMENT

DISPOSITION: PUBLIC COMMENTARY RECEIVED – FOR ANNOUNCEMENT PURPOSES ONLY*

Peter Getzoff wanted to thank Daisy Bonilla for arranging Access Services to pick him up and take him to the Commission meeting.

Sandra Clayton distributed flyers on health care reform and hoarding. Ms. Clayton also indicated that people with walkers might experience difficulties when traveling on public buses.

ITEM NO. (4): PARTICIPATION IN, AND NON-FINANCIAL SPONSORSHIP OF CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS (CCDA) MEETINGS – Discussion by Commissioner Wilson.

DISPOSITION: ACTION TAKEN. COMMISSION VOTED TO BE A PARTNER

Commissioner Wilson announced that the State Commission on Disability Access will hold its meeting in Los Angeles on April 22nd and 23rd, 2014. The meeting is an attempt to make southern California a focus for disability issues and to ensure that the State Commission is a working partner of ours. The State Commission and City will partner on joint meetings to disseminate better information to the public. However, there is no financial obligation by the City of Los Angeles.

Executive Director, Stephen David Simon, encouraged the partnership, especially as it helps the Department achieve one of its goals of reaching out to business and helping them comply with Title III of the Americans with Disability.

The Commission approved the motion to be a partner with the State Commission on Disability Access.

ITEM NO. (5): CITY'S DIRECTON ON NEW SECTION 8 AND OTHER AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Discussion by DOD's Carey Stone.

DISPOSITION: NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY*

Ms. Stone reported that the Housing Authority is still not issuing new vouchers but continue providing V.A.S.H vouchers for veterans. The federal sequestration cut most projects, except for Shelter Plus Care and the V.A.S.H program.

Commissioner asked Ms. Stone to explore whether some of the funding cuts have been restored.

Commissioner Magady asked questions, not about the Housing Authority's program, but about how affordable housing programs sponsored by the state and City are made available for people with disabilities.

Ms. Stone indicated that the City's Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID) is educating developers about their obligations to set-aside affordable housing. Developers must conduct marketing to announce that affordable housing is available.

President Overton requested the DOD and Ms. Stone to review their notes for questions and to arrange a date to report to the Commission again.

ITEM NO. (6): STATUS OF ACCESS/DISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE ISSUES – Presentation by the City Attorney's Office and DOD staff.

DISPOSITION: NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY*

Chris Lee, City Attorney, indicated that his colleague Laura Rittenberg can gather pending cases, associated description and their status, to report at a future Commission meeting.

ITEM NO. (7): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Discussion of recent department activities, and other relevant issues. Presentation by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, DOD.

DISPOSITION: NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY*

The Executive Director indicated that the Computerized Information Center (CID) reported serving 85 constituents in February 2014.

DOD co-sponsored the Abilities Expo and CIC's Ralph Acuna was greatly involved with this event, receiving 200 requests for services and referrals.

The ADA Compliance division continue to training City employees on disability policy, which is a goal of the Department, although the Department seeks to place the training online.

The Compliance division is also seeking to create a partnership with Veteran's Affairs Office.

The AIDS Coordinator's Office recently met with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to discuss plans and policy for addressing the AID/HIV in the future.

DOD will soon begin creating and using metrics for measuring its performance, similar to what LAPD currently does.

Like other departments, DOD produced a budget representing a five (5) percent decreasing that can only likely be met with staff elimination or efficiencies in providing service.

ITEM NO. (8): PUBLIC COMMENT.

DISPOSITION: NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY*

Dan Garcia asked for statistics about housing and its availability in Los Angeles. He asked for a quarterly report on this matter and the Department's response in addressing such issues.

Peter Getzoff reported that an Access Service has recurring problems that must be addressed.

ITEM NO. (9): NEW BUSINESS SUGGESTED FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

DISPOSITION: NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY*

Commissioner Overton asked staff to explore METRO's policy on personal care attendant accompanying the person they assist while traveling on Access and METRO services.

Apparently the current restrictions need to be clarified.

ITEM NO. (10): ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISPOSITION: NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY*

No announcements.

ITEM NO. (11): ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:37 P.M.

Sam Overton, President
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

DATE

Daisy Bonilla, Clerk Typist
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY

DATE