

Commission on Disability Concerns Meeting Minutes June 4, 2009

6:30 p.m.
Board Room
Tempe Public Library,
3500 So. Rural Road, Tempe AZ

(MEMBERS) Present:

Chair Mason Murphy, Jacque Olsen, José De la Torre, Co-Vice Chair Robert Kizere, Chelsea Chamberlain, Cyndi Newburn, Janie Shelton, Aaron Edgell, Liz Perez (conference call)

(MEMBERS) Excused Absence (notification):

None

(MEMBERS) Unexcused Absence (no notification):

Linda Bergevin, Co-Vice Chair Nora Nuñez, Frank Emery

Staff Present:

Karl Stephens, ADA Compliance Specialist

Guests present:

Ed Mitchell

Meeting officially called to order by Chair Mason Murphy at 6:30 p.m.

Public Appearances:

None

1. Consideration of Meeting Minutes: 5/7/09 Draft Commission minutes and 4/16/09 Draft Architectural Compliance Committee minutes.

Motion made by Commissioner Shelton to approve all minutes in one vote; seconded by Commissioner Kizere; approved by unanimous vote.

2. Election of officers for the next year: The new officers taking over in the July 2, 2009 meeting. Ballots were distributed to all Commissioners present. Commissioner Perez chose to abstain because she is new and does not know any of the candidates well enough to vote for them.

Candidates for Chair were: José De la Torre and Robert Kizere with Commissioner Kizere elected as Chair and Commissioners De la Torre and

Edgell agreeing to serve as Co-Vice Chairs for the 2009-2010 year after sufficient votes for each. Commissioner Jacque Olsen withdrew from consideration for Vice Chair because of travel concerns.

3. Brainstorming:

Mr. Ed Mitchell facilitated the next item. The bulk of the meeting was spent on the topic of brainstorming ideas that Commissioners presented as projects of interest and concern for Tempe residents and visitors with disabilities. The parameters of the brainstorming ideas were very broad, with no restrictions for time, space or financing. The intent was simply to motivate the Commissioner's to determine what the possibilities are to invigorate each other and accomplish more to assist with making Tempe the most accessible City in the U.S. After an hour and 10 minutes some forty + ideas had been expressed, clarified and sometimes discussed fairly well before moving on the other topics.

The topic areas covered ideas for funding the ADA Compliance Specialist to a full-time position to providing ongoing education to the public about what the Commission on Disability Concerns does, who the Commissioners are and what they accomplish. Ideas to strengthen City partnerships to educate the residents about disability issues and programs for success like Vial-of-Life and the Lock-box program to assist first responders to provide their needed services. There were ideas about producing better online maps of downtown accessible parking spaces and City parks to current technology that allows electronic devices to activate audible crosswalk signals at all appropriate intersections.

4. Vial of Life and Lockbox Programs:

On May 12 the City Council Sports, Recreation, Arts and Cultural Development Committee had received a presentation on the Lockbox Program. Jayson Matthews introduced Ed Mitchell and Chris Bastian who provided a presentation on the concept of lock box access to housing for seniors and the disabled. Ed Mitchell summarized that this program integrates the needs of seniors and disabled residents in a significant way.

- The lockbox program was started in Scottsdale and spread to Fountain Hills, Chandler, Sun City, Sedona and Casa Grande.
- The Fire Department maintains the code to access the box. Inside the box is a key to the house.
- The box could be hung on the door or mounted on the outside wall beside the door.
- He believes this is necessary and useful in the City of Tempe.
- It is supported by the Fire Department and the Diversity Department.

Fire Chief Cliff Jones added that a number of other entities have implemented this program. It is not a perfect system, but if one person's life can be saved with this system, it adds to the system of public safety. It will be the responsibility of each person who has one of the lockboxes to advise the Fire Department of any changes so the system can be accurate. It has the potential to speed access to a building. Mr. Mitchell added that funding is provided by the Board of Realtors.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked if there is a contract releasing the City of any liability. Mr. Matthews responded that staff will work with the other cities on the liability issues.

DIRECTION: After the agreements are worked out, staff should take this to Council at an IRS. Councilmember Shekerjian suggested that a media campaign be developed to promote the system. Mr. Mitchell added that Council previously approved the Vial of Life Program. Tempe St. Luke's has ordered 5000 new vials, and one model would be at the Pyle Center, Tempe St. Luke's, and other key points on a given weekend, register people. The lockbox program would be a perfect complement for the Vial of Life.

5. Mayor's Awards Committee- Janie Shelton

Information that the event on April 30th was well attended and that the Committee would next be meeting on June 17 to review the event and decide what the plan would be for moving forward towards the 2010 event. The Award's Committee is looking for more members to help to plan the next event and it looks as though there is interest from Chelsea and perhaps others.

6. Architectural Compliance Committee – Jacque Olsen

Update regarding the Tempe Marketplace complaint and the City's notice to the property owner that several discrepancies would have to be fixed by them. Committee feels that the complaint process with Development Services Division (DSD) works very well. Committee has decided to resurrect several old issues regarding Fry's Market parking lot lack of accessible route issues at stores on both Mill and Southern, as well as Rural and Southern. They will also readdress the Broadway Apartment concerns by perhaps filing complaints with HUD.

Also discussed was an issue brought up by Mike Williams from DSD that some concerns had arisen about whether or not the 12" strip of truncated domes when placed on the surface of curb ramps provided sufficient notice for cane users that the surface was transitioning to the street surface or should the truncated domes be doubled to a 24" surface leading to the street edge. Two Commissioners who both use service animals said that this would not affect them but that the larger surface may well be advantageous to cane users.

7. Tempe Rental Housing Concerns – Aaron Edgell

No official report, however, information was shared that the City of Tempe Housing Dept. has been contacted and they do currently have funds available for accessibility modifications for single family homes. Several Commissioners expressed interest in this information. Staff will contact the Housing Dept. to suggest better communication with resident's about this availability of funds.

8. Dial a Ride Update – Darrell Shandrow

There was no official report although Staff did report that Commissioner Shandrow had officially resigned his Commission position. Chair Mason Murphy has also officially notified Linda Bergevin that her position would be considered vacant if she did not respond to his recent phone call, which she did not. With these 2 resignations, this brings the current vacancies to 4.

9. Report from the Child-Ability Committee - Linda Bergevin
No report

10. Parks and Recreation Committee Update – Frank Emery
No report

11. Update of the proposed changes to the City of Tempe Code re: parking fines and related language changes.

Discussion by Commission of the information provided by Mr. Ed Mitchell and the current updates on the process. The next event that is significant is the City Council Transportation Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 23 at 3:00p.m. in the 3rd floor City Hall Conf. Room. All available Commissioner's are encouraged to attend to show support. Commission was asked to vote their support of the proposed City Code changes. Motion to adopt by Mr. De laTorre, seconded by Ms. Newburn, unanimous vote to accept and support.

Diversity/ADA Office Updates – Karl Stephens

Administrative Assistant Brandy Naleski will be leaving at the end of June, having accepted the buyout. This important position is expected to be filled ASAP.

Topics for Future Meetings: August 6, 2009 – Greg Jordan, City of Tempe Transit Administrator: re: Changes to Dial-A-Ride Program; Kathy Berzins, Acting Community Services Manager: Accessibility of renovated Historic Museum and the renovated Tempe Library

Prepared by: Karl Stephens

Karl W. Stephens
Staff Liaison, ADA Compliance Specialist

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