

Commission on Disability Concerns Meeting Minutes June 5, 2008

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

(MEMBERS) Present:

Chair Janie Shelton, Co Vice-Chair Darrell Shandrow, Co Vice-Chair Mason Murphy, Robert Kizere, Jacque Olsen, Paul Bennewitz, Nora Nuñez, Frank Emery, Aaron Edgell, José De La Torre

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Cyndi Newburn, Tom Ringhofer, Linda Bergevin, Matthew Jellison

Staff Present:

Karl Stephens, ADA Compliance Specialist

Guests present:

John Arnold

Meeting convened at 6:40 p.m., Chair Janie Shelton called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:

Commission minutes for 04/15/2008; approved with no changes.

Public Appearances:

None

1. Introduction and Welcome of New Commissioner – Mr. Jose De La Torre

- Roundtable introduction of current Commissioners to Mr. De La Torre, who then introduced himself. He is originally from Mexico and became a U.S. Citizen in 1983. He obtained his Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Degree's from University of Coahuila Mexico, as well as numerous related Certifications. He is also a Certified Public Manager, as well as a community activist for several non-profit organizations. He has extensive training and experience working in AZ State Government in Section 504 of the Rehab. Act and ADA accessibility of facilities, programs, services and activities in both the AZ Dept. of Economic Security and in Juvenile Corrections.

2. Presentation by Joe O'Connor, City of Tempe Recreation Coord. / Boating Program

- No presentation. Will be rescheduled to a later date.

3. Nominations of 2008-09 Commission Officers – Janie Shelton

- Discussion ensued about the need for a “Slate of Candidates” for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions to be nominated this evening and voted on during the July 3 meeting. Several Commissioners expressed support for again having two “Co-Vice Chair” positions and that this system had worked well in providing back-up leadership to the Commission Chair for a few meetings during the last 12 months.
- Candidates for Commission Chair for the next year are:
 - Janie Shelton
 - Mason Murphy
- Candidates for the 2 Commission Co-Vice Chairs for the next year are:
 - Robert Kizere
 - Nora Nuñez
 - José De La Torre

4. Parks and Recreation Committee Update – Frank Emery

- Mr. Emery reported that he and the Staff Liaison had attended the April 16 Tempe Parks Board Meeting by the invitation of Chair Frank Granillo. Both had given information to the Board during a 35 minute information session to build the support of the Parks Board to ultimately adopt the *ADA Guidelines for Recreation Facilities*, as developed by the Access Board, a federal Executive Branch Agency that promulgates federal legal accessibility standards for the Americans with Disabilities Act, that will later be enforced by the U.S. Dept. of Justice (DOJ). While these Guidelines for Recreation Facilities have been used since 2002, they have not, as yet, been adopted by DOJ and are therefore not enforceable. However, this does not preclude agencies at the State and local level, as well as private organizations, from adopting the standards as “best practices” for their facilities, programs, services and activities. The presentation to the Parks Board was a “first stop” in the City hierarchy to seek support throughout the organization and ultimately ask the City Council to formally adopt these accessibility standards for the City of Tempe. Information was also shared about individual concerns from Commission members regarding such things as the shortage of accessible restrooms and wheelchair access to boating activities that are required at Tempe Town Lake.

Information was shared with individual Board members and questions answered about the intent of the standards. The timing for this event worked well and ultimately produced a follow-up field trip for Mr. Emery and Mr. Stephens with the Rio Salado Manager, Nancy Ryan, who was also presenting to the Parks Board that same evening. This field trip at Tempe Town Lake was a valuable experience, letting us know that some excellent accessibility steps are already in place and that others need to follow.

5. Tempe Rental Housing – Aaron Edgell

- No report

6. Architectural Compliance Committee – Tom Ringhofer

- No report

7. Dial-A-Ride Update – Darrell Shandrow

- No report. Mr. Shandrow expressed concerns that Ms. Rose Smith, East Valley Ride Choice Program Manager, who presented her program to the March 18, 2008 Commission meeting, had not followed through with addressing his concerns that he had presented to her. Those concerns included the fact that the ticket vouchers were only available, in person, from the Mesa office location and that no electronic methods are available to pay for the ticket vouchers, such as credit or debit card purchases. He has had no contact by Ms. Smith and is very disappointed with her professionalism.

8. Vial of Life – Staff

- Staff updated the Commission that the needed documents have been translated into Spanish and will be sent back to Tempe St. Luke’s Hospital for printing and dissemination out to the public.

9. Mayor’s Awards Committee Update – Paul Bennewitz

- Short report that the event on April 30 was a great success and that there will be a meeting on July 3rd to review this year’s event as a planning tool for next year. Continuous monthly planning meetings are needed throughout the year for better coordination and to build more community support.

10. Report from the Child-Ability Committee – Linda Bergevin

- No official Report. Commission was updated that the DRAFT Survey form has been forwarded to the proper Tempe City Council Subcommittee to be reviewed for recommended action.

Diversity/ADA Office Update

Staff Liaison Karl Stephens mentioned that several City projects have been taking an inordinate amount of time to resolve the ADA concerns because they were not followed closely enough during the building phase. More time needs to be allocated to onsite inspections during all building projects to be sure that all ADA components meet the standards from the beginning, not after the fact. It may ultimately be that the ADA position will need to be increased to a 30-hour position, rather than the current 20 hour per week position.

Topics for Future Meetings:

- Attempt to reschedule Joe O’Connor, City of Tempe Boating Program Coord., for the July 3rd Commission meeting.
- Dawn Coomer, South Corridor Transit Study, scheduled for the August 7 meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:12 p.m.

Prepared by: Karl Stephens

_____ *Karl W. Stephens* _____
Staff Liaison, ADA Compliance Specialist