



**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
MINUTES
Monday, January 10, 2011
6:00 PM**

*FIFTH FLOOR LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL,
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, 92522
GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 951-826-5427*

MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the Commission on Disabilities is to promote greater awareness of, respect for, and the total participation of individuals with disabilities into all aspects of life.”

State law restricts the Commission on Disabilities from taking action on an item unless it has been included on an agenda and posted at least 72 hours in advance of a meeting or unless the matter falls within one of the narrow exceptions. Consequently, any item not listed on this agenda will normally have to be delayed until the item can be made part of a posted agenda.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Donald Hawecker, Debbie Keller, Paul Van Doren, Gigi Welch, Lesley Robinson, Virginia Werly, Jack Brewer, Ty Lawyer, Sharon Nakama, Keith Nelson

ABSENT: James Stream (excused)

Also in attendance was General Services Director Kris Martinez, and Monique Gordon ADA Coordinator

2. **Introductions and Public Comment Period** - This is the portion of the meeting specifically set aside to invite your comments regarding any matter within the Commission’s jurisdiction. Individual audience participation is limited to 3 minutes.

- Valerie Spence – Brandman University
- Margarita Lanier – Brandman University
- Colleen Griggs – RUSD Resource Specialist and Brandman University
- Carol Hines – RUSD Special Education and Brandman University
- Carrie Griffith, Geriatric Care Manager, Sandoval Elder Law Attorney
- Linda Lawyer, wife of Ty Lawyer
- Commissioner Werly noted that the grand opening for the new Riverside Community College pool area would be on January 22, 2011. She noted that there was disabled access – 2 hydraulic lifts for pool use. Wells Fargo donated the hydraulic lifts for use by people in wheelchairs for aqua aerobics. She provided fliers about the event and the facility.
- Commissioner Nakama asked if the COD would like to purchase program booklet advertisements in support of the 5th Very Special Art Fair.

3. Minutes for the meeting of November 8, 2010

M/S Werly/Brewer and unanimous to approve the November 8, 2010 minutes as presented.

AYES – 10 (Hawecker, Keller, Van Doren, Welch, Robinson, Virginia Werly, Brewer, Lawyer, Nakama, Nelson); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 1 (Stream)

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Discussion: COD Work Plan 2011

The COD discussed work items for 2011. A report was requested concerning the Community Forms and information about proposals for CDBG projects that are disability related.

Commissioner Werly asked how the work of other City commissions can be communicated to the COD. Director Martinez noted that if there is a disability related issue, she is contacted, and the issue is resolved by staff. She is currently unaware of any such issues at this time. City departments are aware of the COD. At the next department head meeting, she will advise that the COD is available to weigh in on any disability issues.

Chairperson Hawecker noted that he had called 3-1-1 52 times and none of these issues had been addressed. His concerns were about sidewalk modification and repairs. He noted that he is waiting for a call from Donna Arrechea of the City's 311 Call Center.

A Public Works report on plans for disabled access projects was requested by the COD. The COD requested that Tom Boyd address the COD on this topic in March 2011. A progress report on project completed in the last year, what is in process and what is planned for the upcoming year is of interest to the Commission.

5. Presentation: Meals on Wheels (Debbie Keller, Riverside Meals on Wheels Executive Director)

Commissioner Keller, Executive Director of the Riverside Meals on Wheels, provided a presentation on an organization that is very important to her and her family. She noted that this organization provides meals to home-bound seniors and residents who are elderly or disabled and living within the city limits of Riverside. This organization is private, non-profit, receives no government assistance and survives on donations. This is a grass roots organization that started in 1972.

Ms. Keller noted that many clients only see volunteers each day. The nutritious meals are prepared by Provider Food Services at Cal Baptist University. 200 volunteers deliver meals Monday through Friday to 120 clients. The cost of meals is \$4.95 each and for those who cannot afford that, a discount is provided. The Riverside County Office on Aging also has a meal delivery program that charges \$3 per meal for low income residents (government funding is provided for the County program). There is no waiting list, just a short application that must be submitted.

In response to a question from Commissioner Van Doren about sponsorship of clients, Commissioner Keller responded currently there are various non-profit organizations who sponsor meals. She noted

that an upcoming event is March on Meals that is intended to bring awareness to senior hunger in Riverside.

She mentioned a program called "Be a Santa to a Senior", through a volunteer coordinated council, that contributed gifts for 750 gift baskets given to seniors in the community.

Commissioner Werly noted that RTA annually chooses 8-10 charitable organizations to contribute to. She suggested that Ms. Keller contact RTA around October and request that Meals on Wheels be a recipient for the contributions.

Commissioner Keller is always looking for volunteers.

6. Review: Draft Brochure-Universally Accessible Playground at Fairmount Park

The COD discussed the draft brochure. The following modifications were recommended:

- a. Picture able-bodied and disabled children together
- b. Decrease the amount of words and show more photos
- c. Include a photo of the playground – consider a watermark behind the color
- d. Make sure the children look happy
- e. Consider photo of a parent

The Parks Commission also needs to review and comment on the brochure. The draft will be revised and forwarded to the Parks Commission for review.

The revised draft will be reviewed at the February 2011 meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

7. COD Report to City Council –March 22, 2011

The COD took updated digital photos for the Council report.

8. Discussion: COD Website Enhancement (Keith Nelson)

Commissioner Nelson envisions a more interactive website for the COD that could list more services that are available for the community without advertisements. The environment could be similar to Facebook, but not Facebook. This would enable the COD to expand on the services available in the community and the community could post information about services that are available. The arrangement would be like a bulletin board. For example, there could be a link to RTA or Special Transportation and someone from the community might comment that they were happy with the service. Not endorsement but a community discussion. The RTA would be responsible to keep their site updated.

Commissioner Nakama mentioned that often the parents of her students do not know where to turn for services. The lack of access to resources is really difficult. Would a disclaimer of responsibility be adequate to protect the City from any confusion?

Commissioner Van Doren reminded the COD that there had been earlier discussions about the COD endorsing non-profits and it would be problematic. The COD should refrain from being an endorser or database for resources.

The COD discussed that there could be links to other City services and the community would have the ability to comment on the service, or maybe there is just the link to different services. This could be the resource that the community needs.

Director Martinez advised that this question could be posed to Deputy City Attorney Okazaki and the City's Information Technology staff.

9. 311 Call Center – ADA Related Service Statistics

This information was noted by the COD.

10. Brief reports on conferences, seminars, and meetings attended by COD members

None.

11. Items for future COD consideration

- Joint meeting with the Parks Commission
- Website Links

UPCOMING EVENTS

12. Riverside's Model Deaf Community Committee (MDCC), third Wednesday of the month (January 19, 2011) at 4:00 pm in the 7th Floor Small Conference Room.

Commissioner Nakama will attend this meeting.

13. Mayor's Commission on Aging meets 1:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month (January 13, 2011) in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room

Commissioner Keller will tentatively attend this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:15 pm

There is no audio tape available for this meeting.