



**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
MINUTES
Monday, February 14, 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.”

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Donald Hawecker, Paul Van Doren, James Stream, Lesley Robinson, Virginia Werly, Ty Lawyer, Keith Nelson

Sharon Nakama arrived about 6:10 pm

ABSENT: Welch and Brewer (excused), Keller (unexcused).

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

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.

- Donna Kirchoff – Inland Regional Center
- Linda Lawyer – Resident
- Karen Wright – Ms. Wright suggested that handicapped ramps be pointed in the direction of travel instead of the corner ramps (which the City uses) that requires a change in the direction. The change in direction of travel requires the (disabled) resident to enter or exit the ramp by entering the street – which is dangerous. She also mentioned a Dennis Banks and Native American walk across America in support of diabetes prevention.
- Chairperson Hawecker suggested that the COD participate in the City of Riverside Airport Air Show on March 26, 2011 from 9 am to 4 pm.

3. Minutes for the meeting of January 10, 2010

M/S Werly/Lawyer and unanimous to approve the minutes as presented.

AYES – 7 (Hawecker, Van Doren, Stream, Robinson, Werly, Lawyer, Nelson); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 4 (Nakama, Welch, Keller, Brewer).

OLD BUSINESS

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

The COD is interested in including a long shot of the playground structure as a watermark. This item will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

The COD discussed that adding information about what fixed bus route would take a rider to Fairmount Park would be valuable information to add.

5. Subcommittee Selection and Meeting concerning Shane's Inspiration program at Fairmount Park

Commissioner Werly noted that there had been a meeting between herself, Jim Stream, Ralph Nunez, Kris Martinez and Monique Gordon to discuss continuing with the Shane's inspiration educational program and Play Date program at the playground at Fairmount Park. The discussion centered on the fact it would be easier to manage a meeting between subcommittees versus full meetings of both commissions. Using subcommittees would also make it easier to communicate between commissions. If approved, the selected subcommittee meeting would be scheduled for Tuesday, February 22 at Dale's Community Center. Keith Nelson, Sharon Nakama, and Jim Stream were selected for this subcommittee. A representative from Shane's Inspiration would also be in attendance. This subcommittee will report back to the COD in March.

Commissioner Nakama noted that Karen Brass, RUSD Program Specialist, may be interested in contributing to the Play Date project.

6. Review: Draft COD Report to City Council for March 22, 2011

The COD reviewed the draft report, recommended edits for the biographies and discussed items to include in the report.

7. Discussion: COD Website Enhancement

This item will be postponed until the City of Riverside's Social Media policy is available.

8. Status: CDBG Community Forums Outcome

There will be a public hearing on this issue April 12, 2011. At that time, Council will take community input before moving forward with selection of successful proposals. The projects will be funded July 1, 2011.

NEW BUSINESS

9. 5th Annual Very Special Art Fair, Thursday, March 24, 2011 at Ramona High School

The theme this year is transportation – meeting our needs every day. The COD will have a booth at this event and more than 700 special needs kids are expected to attend along with more than 350 community groups. They have also received a program booklet for advertisements. The Mayor will attend this event. Commissioner Nakama will report on the event outcome at the April 11, 2011 meeting.

The COD requested that the Special Olympics, ARC of Riverside and the COD booths be in close proximity so that responsibility can be shared for manning the booths.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

10. 311 Call Center – ADA Related Service Statistics

This information was noted by the COD.

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

Commissioner Werly noted that she had attended a meeting concerning the local chapter for the National Federation for the Blind. She noted that the transfer center at the Galleria had been discussed and the issue was that this area is not functional for people with full blindness. Because of the linear shape of the area and the heavy bus traffic, hearing the auto annunciator is problematic since they cannot hear information concerning specific buses. Commissioner Werly noted that RTA is reconfiguring that area in order to make the area more functional for patrons of the service. She will advise the COD when the new configuration and operating procedure will be launched.

12. Items for future COD consideration

- Accessible Homeless Shelters
- Disability Demographics
- State Budget Cuts and the effects on Disability programs

UPCOMING EVENTS

13. Riverside's Model Deaf Community Committee (MDCC), third Wednesday of the month (February 16, 2011) at 4:00 pm in the 7th Floor Small Conference Room.

14. Mayor's Commission on Aging meets 1:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month (March 10, 2011) in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room

15. 5th Very Special Art Fair – Thursday, March 24, 2011 at Ramona High School, 7675 Magnolia Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:08 pm