



**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
MINUTES
Monday, October 17, 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: 6:03 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Donald Hawecker, Debbie Keller, James Stream, Gigi Welch, Lesley Robinson, Virginia Werly, Ty Lawyer, Sharon Nakama, Keith Nelson

ABSENT: Van Doren (excused).

Also present were 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.
 - a. Commissioner Stream noted that Riverside City Council declared October 13, 2011 as "I ♥ Fairmount Park Day". The City hosted a celebration at 3:30 p.m. in front of Fairmount Park's award winning Universally Accessible Playground. This follows last week's announcement by the American Planning Association (APA) that Riverside's Fairmount Park is one of 10 Great Public Spaces for 2011.
 - b. Commissioner Robinson noted that the Riverside Special Transit has expanded its voucher program based on income requirements, to provide free transportation to City Council and Commission meetings for adults who qualify.
 - c. Commissioner Nelson noted that his Special Olympics Floor Hockey team took GOLD in the State games. They are on their way to the 10th uppdr division and 8th lower division straight State Championships.
 - d. Commissioner Nakama noted that May 19, 2012 will be the 3rd annual Very Special Night Prom for general and special education kids.
3. Minutes for the meeting of July 11, 2011

M/S Werly/Lawter to approve to approve the minutes of July 11, 2011 as presented.

AYES – 5 (Keller, Robinson, Lawyer, Nakama, Nelson); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN (4) – Hawecker, Werly, Stream, Welch); ABSENT – 1 (Van Doren)

OLD BUSINESS

4. Discussion concerning a proposed Public Service Announcement about issues that affect the Disabled Community and how the Community-at-Large can help (continued from July 11, 2011 meeting).

The COD discussed what the PSA would cover and the information that would be conveyed. This PSA would be shown on the City's GTV Channel and on the City's website.

Commissioner Welch suggested that sidewalk obstruction not be characterized as solely a disability issue, but include parents with strollers, a resident who uses a wheelchair and others in general who would need to enter the street to go around the obstruction. Making it a more general issue would be more effective in getting the public to understand the problem.

General Services Director Martinez noted that the PSA should be an outreach/educational tool that informs the Council and Community about issues that the COD is working on. The PSA should also enlighten the community about how it can help decrease some of the negative impacts to the disability community. A draft PSA will be presented to the COD for review before going live on GTV. The PSA can be about the COD, sidewalk obstruction, fliers on the windshields of disabled vehicles, shortage of disabled parking spaces and the universally accessible playground at Fairmount Park (Saturday Play Club).

There should be a balance of empathy, instruction and showing that these issues affect more than just the disabled. Showing curb cuts being installed, transportation related (Special Transit buses) highlights such as special Olympic athletes being brought to practice on a Saturday, or Friendly Stars on a Friday.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Discussion concerning Community Calendar use for posting of Disabled Community events (Keith Nelson)

Commissioner Nelson noted that there were a lot of services, sporting activities, dances and other events that are positive in the City for the disability community, but no central repository to make it easier to find those events.

General Services Director Martinez noted that in previous discussions, it was determined that links to other websites are not possible, but the Community Calendar is a central place where events can be noted. The Community Calendar is on the City website and the events are submitted for approval and once approved, they are posted to the Community Calendar.

Commissioner Nakama noted that a good place to post the Special Olympics information is in the Parks and Recreation Guide that is mailed to resident's homes.

In response to a question from Commissioner Werly concerning the City allowing links, with disclaimers, from the City to various other websites that would be potentially beneficial to disabled residents, Ms. Martinez noted that the City Attorney would not approve links from the City's Website for other than government sources. The General Services Director agreed to check with the City Attorney to see if the disclaimer or a redirect message/page would be allowable.

6. Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) presentation on Senior/Disabled Travel Training Program (Virginia Werly)

Commissioner Werly noted that the Travel Training Program was just starting. She noted that this was a new program funded by RCTC and would run for two (2) fiscal years 11-12 and 12-13.

RTA ridership last year was 8.1 million (mornings) with about 92% fixed route service, 4% commuter link service and 4% for Dial-a-Ride. Dial-a-Ride provides local, community based service that begins and ends in a single city for seniors 65 and older and people with disabilities who do not meet the ADA requirements. RTA is the second largest transit agency in the country behind New Jersey and covers 2,500 square miles. The large service area is why service is restricted to those who meet ADA requirements. ADA certification requires an application and medical verification of the disability. Once ADA eligibility is determined, travel is allowed without restriction.

The City of Riverside has a subsidized monthly pass program for residents of the City of Riverside. For the fixed Route pass, instead of \$23, the customer pays \$16.10 per month and you can travel an unlimited number of times anywhere throughout the transit area. The Agency cost is \$4.97 and the fair is \$1.50. In comparison, on Dial-A-Ride, if you travel once a day, round trip, the out of pocket cost to the passenger is \$130 per month and the agency cost is \$27.20.

	Agency Cost	Passenger Fare	Monthly Cost to Passenger
Fixed Route	\$4.97	\$1.50	\$23.00 \$16.10 in Riverside
Dial-A-Ride (paratransit)	\$27.20	\$3.00	\$130.00

Both fixed route and Dial-A-Ride vehicles are accessible. This program is supposed to give Dial-A-Ride patrons the choice of a less expensive travel option for people who have barriers to service in the accessible and functional needs category: seniors and persons with disabilities.

The senior program is designed to be social in nature and is designed to reach out to persons who are aging out of their drivers licenses. Unless you are used to transit, you don't use it until you have to. The objective of this program is to find a social interaction with seniors who again still drive, still have their drivers licenses and have never accessed public transit before. Social groups going to lunch or other activities in small groups, senior centers or assisted living facilities. Take these groups for trips on the normal fixed route near where they live or near the senior center and let them see what is in their community. Very often, when people move to senior centers or other transitional housing, they do not know what is in their community. The idea is to connect them through public transit to the community so that they maintain independence in the transportation aspect but also in their lives by connecting them to the community. Giving up your license does not mean giving up their lives.... The freedom to Go.

For the disabled community training is one on one. It is not social in nature but is designed to say that if the objective is an independent life, there is access to transit. There is no need to plan 3 days ahead of time, which dial-a-ride requires. Residents are walked to the accessible bus stop to show them how to travel to their destinations. The target passenger is a disabled traveler who is a dial-a-ride passenger living along a fixed route. This will be an opportunity for disabled riders whose beginning and ending destination are on a fixed route. The agency will provide individual trainers who will walk the rider to the accessible bus stop and train them where to get off. Pictorial books will be used for reading or cognitive impairments. Photos will be taken from the bus so the rider knows where to get off. There is a woman in New York who has been providing this type of training since

1979. Younger riders are also transit trained and this provides new self confidence and independence.

The first staff member has been hired and there is a department of 4. There will be 2 full time travel trainers and a working supervisor. Each participant will be given a serialized monthly pass as they accomplish their training so that the agency can monitor their movements and evaluate the program's success.

The disabled aspect is specific to individual's needs and what they need to access and understand the barriers from their home to the bus stop. An assessment will be done to determine if the training can be accomplished safely. A lot of community outreach will be needed to publicize this program. Currently there is an assisted living facility, the Janet Goeske Senior Center and about 50 disabled residents who are waiting to begin the travel training program.

Travel Training was designed to become self-sustaining. If 250 successful travel trips are accomplished and those 250 trips move from Dial-A-Ride to fixed route travel, the program will be self-sustaining. If monthly passes can be distributed instead of Dial-A-Ride tickets, there will be a huge cost savings. A video is in production to market this program.

In response to a comment from Chairperson Hawecker that the fixed route buses could only accommodate 2 wheel chair passengers, Commissioner Werly noted that the upcoming buses will have 3-4 wheelchair positions and 3 position bicycle racks.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

7. 311 Call Center – ADA Related Service Statistics

This information was noted by the COD.

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

No reports.

9. Items for future COD consideration

- a. PSA topic: Modified Ordinances concerning Flyers on Windshields and Disabled use of two parking spaces.

Chairperson Hawecker requested that the Code Enforcement (CE) postcards be revised for clarity. The Code Enforcement manager will be invited to the next meeting to discuss sidewalk obstruction, postcard distribution and the CE process in response to a sidewalk obstruction calls from the public. Can the CE respond to these calls the same day a sidewalk obstruction call is received? Are these postcards still being distributed?

- b. COD Annual Report to City Council – October 23, 2012
- c. Diana Rockot – Riverside County Fire, Emergency Services Coordinator concerning Mass Care and Shelter Plan. Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disaster (VOAD) to incorporate residents with special needs into the emergency plan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10. My Play Date – Saturday, October 22, 2011 at Fairmount Park Universally Accessible Playground, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm.

Commissioner Stream noted that the event would be the fourth Saturday in October instead of the regularly scheduled third Saturday in deference to Holloween. He will provide a short monthly report concerning the overall outcome of each event. It is possible that the event will not be held in December and January in anticipation of winter weather, however this has not been decided.

Commissioner Nakama noted that Jackson Elementary School was involved. Every month, more people with disabilities participate. Of 150 registrants, about 25% have some type of disability.

General Services Director Martinez noted that if information concerning the event is provided, the event could be publicized in the City's OUTLOOK publication which is mailed to all residents.

11. Riverside's Model Deaf Community Committee (MDCC), third Wednesday of the month (October 19, 2011) at 4:00 pm in the 7th Floor Small Conference Room.
12. Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative Conference 2011 'Strong Together – Serving Better', Wednesday, October 19, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Inland Regional Center-Conference Center, 1365 S. Waterman Ave, San Bernardino, CA
13. Mayor's Night Out next meets at 7 pm on October 26, 2011, Orangecrest, Rivera Elementary, 20440 Red Poppy Lane, Ward 4.
14. Mayor's Commission on Aging meets 1:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month (November 10, 2011) in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room

ADJOURNMENT: 7:20 pm