



**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES  
MINUTES  
Monday, February 13, 2012  
6:00 PM**

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

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**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, Debbie Keller, Paul Van Doren, James Stream, Lesley Robinson, Virginia Werly, Sharon Nakama, Keith Nelson

Gigi Welch and Ty Lawyer were absent (excused).

Also present were General Services Director Kris Martinez, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Ralph Nunez 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. Edna Napier, Easter Seals Riverside, located at 1737 Atlanta Avenue. The crossing area is Marlboro and the nearest traffic light is the corner of Marlboro and Iowa. She informed the COD about an adult day program in the Hunter Park District on Marlboro and Atlanta. She noted that each day, about 12 clients go to Hunter Park and they cross the street to enter the park. There is no sidewalk, crosswalk, stop sign or traffic light. Since there are no sidewalks, or stop signs, she sends extra staff to stop traffic and help the clients cross the street. She requested that the City look into the matter and install a stop sign or traffic light. The closest traffic light is on Iowa and Marlboro, about 100 yards away. Also, there is a bus stop at Atlanta and Marlboro and she also sees people from the bus stop crossing the street to the Park. Yesterday, she noticed that there were a lot of children crossing the street in that area. She wanted to bring this unsafe situation to the City's attention.

Mr. Nunez noted that there could be a liability issue related to this location since there seem to be a large number of people crossing the street on a regular basis.

- b. Commissioner Werly noted that this same problem existed at St. Lawrence and Lincoln for the Arc of Riverside facility which also conducts an adult day care facility. The location requires crossing Lincoln at St. Lawrence where the City Corporation Yard is located. There is a stop sign on St. Lawrence facing Lincoln, but there is no way to cross Lincoln if you are trying to get to the Arc of Riverside. There are two bus stops, one on either side of the street but there is no way to access the bus stop for consumers who want to cross to the Arc of Riverside facility.

Commissioner Stream noted that this discussion was timely because RTA had grant funds to travel train people with disabilities and Commissioner Werly had recently met with the funding source who is anxious to get clients from Inland Regional Center and other facilities to start riding the bus. These special needs clients are often on less inclusive modes of transportation that are more expensive. Commissioner Stream noted that the City has been very cooperative about accommodating people with special needs. He noted that Commissioner Werly was looking for a recommendation that would accommodate her agency's travel training clients so that they did not have to walk an additional 1/3 mile to the crosswalk for street crossing. Commissioner Werly noted that this item should return to the agenda next month so that this issue could be addressed by Public Works. The Arc of Riverside facility is located at 8188 Lincoln Avenue Riverside, CA 92504 .

- c. Commissioner Robinson noted that Karen Wright had contacted her to advise that at a downtown location between Jurupa and Central Avenue there is a shopping center with a driveway that has no curb cuts. People coming out of the driveway could be in a wheelchair or pushing a stroller and be hit because there is no curb cut and nobody knows there is traffic coming that way.

The COD requested that this information be forward to Interim Public Works Director Tom Boyd for investigation and resolution. The COD would also like Mr. Boyd or his designee to attend the March 12, 2012 meeting to discuss these locations.

### 3. Minutes for the meeting of November 14, 2011

M/S Werly/Keller and unanimous to approve the minutes from November 14, 2011 as presented.

AYES – 8 (Hawecker, Keller, Van Doren, Stream, Robinson, Werly, Nakama, Nelson); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 2 (Welch, Lawyer)

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion concerning a Public Service Announcement (PSA) script about issues that affect the Disabled Community and how the Community-at-Large can help.

The COD discussed final revisions of the PSA and requested that some footage be shot at the March 17, 2012 My Play Date Event.

### NEW BUSINESS

2. Special Olympics Sponsorship Opportunity (Ralph Nunez)

Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Director Ralph Nunez brought before the COD a sponsorship opportunity from the Special Olympics of Southern California for Aquatics Training at the Shamel Park Pool. On June 21, 2011, the City Council approved the PRCS fee resolution. The approved fee resolution imposes fees for the use of all PRCS facilities. The fee resolution does not leave a lot of

Department Head discretion to work with groups or exempt fees for different groups or organizations as appropriate. Last week he met with the Finance subcommittee to work on an exemption policy that would allow some discretion if a group met certain criteria. The issue before the COD would be the type of issue that would meet the criteria for exemption. Unfortunately, it would take some time for the new policy to be completed and approved and time is of the essence. The Special Olympics team needs to begin training by the end of this week.

In the meantime, it was his understanding that the COD had some discretionary funds available that could be allocated for these types of programs. Since the current request would benefit the disabled community, he wanted to request that the COD consider the possibility of allocating an amount not to exceed \$1,000. Director Nunez would do everything possible to make sure that the expense was less than \$1,000 but he wanted to ensure that these athletes had the ability to train. The use of Shamel Pool had been requested and was consistent with other programs and activities at the facility. When needed, PRCS seeks sponsorships and donations that will benefit appropriate groups and organizations and provide programs and services that would not otherwise be offered. Whatever funds are not used will be returned to the COD.

General Services Director Martinez clarified that there were funds budgeted to support COD activities (conferences, outreach efforts, etc.) and has been used for marketing materials and other activities in the past. Only \$1,000 had been spent so far this fiscal year and there were funds available to accommodate the one time request of Director Nunez. Director Nunez noted that the only reason he was coming to the COD was because of the shortness of time and the need for the kids to start training right away.

Commissioner Van Doren noted that he recalls the fund being set up for support of the COD, but there had not been an account of that fund. He noted that there would be a lot of programs in the City where people or groups need money and they could all be equally as valid as the current issue.

Commissioner Werly noted that this request was in support of a wonderful program and she was in support of the funding if it was for one time only.

Commissioner Nakama suggested that a motion be made to approve the request and table further discussion about the process of allocating money and future requests for funding until a later date.

M/S Stream/Werly and unanimous to approve the PRCS request for one time only funding of the Special Olympics aquatic training at Shamel Pool, not to exceed \$1,000.

The COD requested bi-annual financial reports on funds allocated to the COD.

AYES – 7 (Hawecker, Keller, Van Doren, Stream, Robinson, Werly, Nakama); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 2 (Welch, Lawyer); RECUSED to avoid a conflict of interest – 1 (Nelson).

### 3. Disabilities, Access & Functional Needs – Duck, Cover and Hold On

The information provided illustrates what a person in a wheelchair would do in case of an emergency. The information is located at the ReadyRiverside website. The COD requested that this information be printed in a brochure format for distribution to the public.

## COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

### 4. 311 Call Center – ADA Related Service Statistics

This item was noted by the COD.

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

Commissioner Van Doren noted that training for Functional Assessment Service Teams (FAST) would be held April 23-24, 2012. The FAST teams would be experts in assessing the needs of people with disabilities during and after disasters. These trainings would be sponsored by the California Emergency Management Agency (CALEMA). One of these emergency response trainings will be held in Riverside. Those who should attend will have a minimum of 2 years' experience working with and assessing the needs of people with disabilities and he noted that there will be a lot of specialized equipment involved. He is hoping to get 30-40 qualified people who will be committed to responding when called. After training, these qualified people would be able to assist disabled clients in emergency shelters and other areas.

Commissioner Nelson noted that his Special Olympics basketball team would be playing the Harlem Globtrotters, in San Diego next month, they would play a college intermural team, and were also working on an opportunity to play with Mayor Loveridge and the City Council.

6. Items for future COD consideration

- a. COD Annual Report to City Council – October 23, 2012
- b. Field Trip to the Fairmount Park Universally Accessible Playground

UPCOMING EVENTS

7. Riverside's Model Deaf Community Committee (MDCC), third Wednesday of the month (February 15, 2012) at 4:00 pm in the 7th Floor Small Conference Room.

This item was noted by the COD.

8. Mayor's Night Out next meets at 7 pm on February 22, 2012, Ramona Jefferson Elementary, 4285 Jefferson Street, Wards 3 and 5.

This item was noted by the COD.

9. Mayor's Commission on Aging meets 1:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month (March 8, 2012) in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room

This item was noted by the COD.

10. My Play Club – Saturday, March 17, 2021 at Fairmount Park Universally Accessible Playground, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm (pending weather conditions).

This item was noted by the COD.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:10 pm