



MINUTES
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
City Hall, 5th Floor Large Conference Room
3900 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92522
March 12, 2007 at 6:00pm
ADA Coordinator - (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.

Due to construction, the March 12, 2007 Commission on Disabilities meeting was held in the 7th Floor small conference room instead of the 5th Floor large conference room.

1. **Call to Order:** 6:12 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call:** Chairperson Paul Van Doren, Vice-Chair Terry Gregersen, James Stream, Gene Brosious, Suzanne Puffer, Gigi Welch, Debbie Keller,

Absent: Ed Rush (excused), Linda Garcia, Lesley Robinson. Linda Garcia and Lesley Robinson arrived after roll call (6:15 pm and 6:17 pm respectively)

Also present: General Services Director Kris Martinez, Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki, ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon. The LifeSign sign language interpreter was not in attendance.

4. **Minutes:** Minutes for the meeting of February 12, 2007

M/S Brosious/Gregersen and unanimous to approve the minutes from February 12, 2007 as presented.

AYES – 8; NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 2 (Rush, Robinson)

5. **Introductions and Public Comment**

Public in attendance were Donna Kirchoff and Margaret Johnson

6. Old Business

A. Election of Officers 2007

M/S Robinson/Brosious and unanimous to open nominations for Chairperson

1. Gigi Welch nominated Debbie Keller for Chairperson
2. Gene Brosious nominated Paul Van Doren
3. Debbie Keller declined nomination

M/S Stream/Robinson and unanimous to close nomination and approve Paul Van Doren as **Chairperson** for a second term.

AYES – 9; NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT -1 (Rush)

M/S Robinson/Puffer and unanimous to open nominations for Vice-Chair.

1. Lesley Robinson nominated Terry Gregersen for Vice-Chair
2. Terry Gregersen declined the nomination because he is seeking employment outside of the area
3. Suzanne Puffer nominated Gigi Welch for Vice-Chair

M/S Keller/Robinson and unanimous to close the nominations and approve Gigi Welch for Vice-Chair.

AYES – 9; NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT -1 (Rush)

M/S Garcia/Puffer to open nominations for Chair pro tem.

Gigi Welch nominated Debbie Keller
Linda Garcia nominated Terry Gregersen

M/S Robinson/Puffer and unanimous to close nominations for Chair pro-tem – voting by show of hands:

Debbie Keller – 8, Terry Gregersen – 1

Debbie Keller was elected Chair pro-tem

- B. Reminder:** Annual Boards and Commission Reception on Monday, March 26, 2007 at 5:30 pm. Entertainment/Reception/Dinner and 6:15 pm program in the lower level of the Municipal Auditorium.

Lesley Robinson encouraged Commission members to attend.

In response to a concern raised by Terry Gregersen about wheelchair accessibility at the Reception, General Services Director Martinez responded that wheelchair accessibility would

be adequate.

C. **Discussion** on Public Service Announcement: Interaction with the Community (Channel 32 notes concerning COD items)

- 1) Work on the PSA is ongoing and Scott Brosious will contact Linda Garcia and Paul Van Doren for project voiceovers.

Noted by the COD

D. **Update** on production of Utility Bill Insert and Bookmarks – discussion concerning use of a graphic artist for this project.

Noted by the COD

E. **Update:** Utility Bill Insert mailing is on the Public Utility schedule for October 2007. **Review and discussion of graphic artist proof.**

The COD discussed the proof and revisions to the text were suggested. This item is being carried-over until the April 9, 2007 meeting.

M/S Keller/Welch and unanimous to carry this item over to the meeting of April 9, 2007.

AYES – 9; NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT -1 (Rush)

F. **Discussion:** Local Commissions on Disability – Board member Gigi Welch suggests that the Board visit local, working commissions on disabilities that have been established for a longer period of time, observe how they work and what they have accomplished. The Riverside COD may want to accomplish goals similar to other commissions. Local jurisdictions with Commissions on Disabilities:

- 1) City of Santa Monica
- 2) City of Los Angeles
- 3) Los Angeles County
- 4) City of Pasadena
- 5) City of San Diego
- 6) City of West Hollywood
- 7) Riverside County Advisory Committee

Commission member Gregersen volunteered to visit other jurisdiction Commissions on Disability and provide a report on their meeting structure, action items and focus.

Commission member Puffer noted that she has collected information from various Commissions on Disabilities across the country and she will provide information to the COD.

7. New Business

- A. **Due to construction**, the regular 5th floor COD meeting room will not be available on April 9, 2007. On April 9, 2007 only, the COD meeting will be held in the ~~6th Floor Main Conference~~ **7th Floor Mayor's Ceremonial Room** of City Hall. Meeting time is unchanged.

Noted by the COD

B. Discussion: No-Show Policy (NSP) - City of Riverside Special Transportation Section

Commission Chair Van Doren noted that:

1. He feels that the No Show Policy (NSP) is harsh
2. Special Transportation must look at reasons for the NSP
3. The current policy will bog down the system
4. He would like a closer look at specific issues surrounding the NSP.

Commission member Robinson noted that she attends the quarterly RTA meetings and that the same people tend to come each time; representatives from the COD should attend. She noted that a penalty for no-shows was not unrealistic.

Commission member Stream advised that the COD should gather information and then write recommendations surrounding the pros and cons of the NSP.

General Services Director Martinez noted that the Special Transportation was a grant funded project.

Chair person Van Doren noted that the COD's purpose was to investigate viable solutions to the issue.

M/S Stream/Robinson and unanimous to set up a subcommittee to further investigate this issue.

Paul Van Doren, Lesley Robinson, Suzanne Puffer and Jim Stream will serve on the subcommittee to investigate and make recommendations to the COD.

AYES – 9; NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT -1 (Rush)

- C. **Question:** Flier for a benefit show: Can this type of event announcement be posted to the COD website? **Answer:** No. The City cannot endorse a private performer.

Noted by the COD.

D. Website additions:

- a. The mission of the National Organization on Disability (N.O.D.) is to expand the participation and contribution of America's 54 million men, women and children with disabilities in all aspects of life: <http://nod.org>
- b. The International Center for Disability Resources on the Internet (ICDRI): www.icdri.org
- c. The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping individuals with dyslexia, their families and the communities that support them: <http://interdys.org>

ADA Coordinator Gordon noted that currently, the City of Riverside would not permit listing of non-profit organizations on the City website.

In response to a comment from Commission member Stream noting that non-profit organizations were the social force of the community, Chair person Van Doren noted that the COD should remain focused on non-profits within the City of Riverside.

Concerning the issue of website posting of non-profit organizations, Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki commented that if the City posted one organization, it would be opened to posting all non-profit organizations. He also noted his concern about negligent website postings and questioned how the City would be expected to distinguish one non-profit over another?

The COD agreed that website postings and links will be limited to government websites.

8. Additional Information

- A. **4th Annual Senior Conference**, Wednesday, March 21, 2007 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm presented by the Riverside Police Department and Janet Goeske Center

Noted by the COD

- B. **New Support Group for parents/caregivers raising children with special needs** in Riverside County, funded by FIRST FIVE for the Riverside County Support Groups and Additional Information

Noted by the COD

- C. **Senior Wheels USA** – Their main purpose and goal is to develop public awareness that there are assistance options that allow senior citizens (as well as the permanently disabled) to remain independent in their own homes by providing no cost power mobility equipment.

Noted by the COD

- D. **A News Article** - Warnings on Abuse of the Disabled Ignored

Noted by the COD

- E. **Announcement:** Best Buddies of Inland Empire – March 18, 2007 Festival of Friendship.

Noted by COD

- F. The County of Riverside's Law Library will be offering free 15-minute attorney consultations during Library Week (April 16-20). Details are given on Page 2 of the attached newsletter.

Noted by COD

9. Items for future Commission Consideration

This is an opportunity for Commissioners to reference any items that arise during the meeting but are not a part of the meeting agenda.

Commission member Robinson noted that COD members should attend more community meetings.

Commission member Gregersen noted that for the archives, the COD should take a group photo.

Commission member Stream requested twenty minutes at the next COD to present information in an accessibility brochure regarding Title I and II of the ADA.

In response to a suggestion from Commission member Stream concerning inviting Council members to COD meetings in order to understand the City disability demographics, General Services Director Martinez suggested that this action should take place after the election.

M/S Gregersen/Garcia and unanimous to adjourn the meeting.

AYES – 7; NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT -3 (Rush, Robinson, Puffer [Robinson and Puffer left the meeting at 7:30pm in order to meet rides home.]

10. Adjournment: 7:50 pm

**These minutes were approved at the meeting of May 14, 2007 as corrected.
No audio or video recordings of this meeting are available.**

Accessibility to Meetings

Upon request, these minutes will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any person with a disability who requires modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should direct such requests to the City's ADA Coordinator at (951) 826-5427 at least 48 hours before the meeting, if possible. A Sign language interpreter will be made available upon request.