



Minutes
Commission on Disabilities
City Hall, 5th Floor, 3900 Main St.
Riverside, CA 92522
May 8th, 2006 at 6pm

- I. Call to order at 6:03
- II. Approval of Minutes-April 10th
Motion: To Approve the minutes of April 10th
M/S/C: Welch/DeLoss/Carried
Correction: Commissioner Garcia is willing to work on an audio version of the brochure.
- III. Introductions and Public Comment
Bob Johnson spoke at the Friday morning club and reported that he would like to work on the Universally Accessible Playground.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Universally Accessible Playground-
Commissioners reported the concerns from the Prado Park Visit:
 - the water area of the park was on cement and a on a raised platform instead of rubberized materials,
 - there was no pathway to the picnic tables,
 - there also need to be extended and raised table-top picnic tables so that wheelchair users can use the table,
 - the park should also be on level-ground to eliminate the need for curbs and raised platforms,
 - there needs to be a shorter water fountain that could accommodate a wheelchair users,
 - there need to be grab-bars by the climbing equipment for children who need additional support,
 - the restrooms should be close and accessible, curbs need to be placed by the waterside so that no one falls in,
 - climbing rings should be lower for a wheelchair user,
 - there needs to be brail on all of the signs
 - Features in the shape of a Mission Bell
 - Sounds should be added to assist the blind
 - There needs to be a wheelchair swing
 - The restrooms should have a changing station

Commissioner Welch expressed concerns with the safety of the equipment if it were to be placed in Fairmount Park. Commissioner Robinson suggested that safety issues could be addressed during the

playground planning process. Commissioner Stream suggested that all parks start implementing totally accessible equipment. Chairperson Van Doren added that the Park, Recreation, and Community Services Department knows Parks and that the role of the Commission on Disabilities is to point out the realities of accessibility. Commissioner Garcia asked about creating a balance of grass and concrete. Commissioner Garcia remarked that gating off the park may be interpreted as excluding community members. Chairperson Van Doren reported that the Commission needs to meet with the Cultural Heritage Board to approve the design so that it fits into the plan for the vision of Fairmount Park.

The Commission on Disabilities and the Park, Recreation, and Community Services Commission will hold a joint meeting on May 22nd at 6pm in the Fairmount Boathouse.

Motion: That the Commission on Disabilities supports improvements to the Fairmount Park Playground so that it becomes Universally Accessible
M/S/C: Robinson/Keller/Carried

Chairperson Van Doren asked Commissioners about forming a subcommittee to specifically review the playground project.

B. Standing Meeting Rules

Motion: to add the portion of Chair Pro-Tem to 5.A.

M/S/C: Robinson/DeLoss/Carried

V. New Business

A. Mission Statement and Goals-

Chairperson Van Doren suggested that “to promote the total integration of persons with disabilities into all aspects of community life.” Commissioner Stream suggested that in place of the term integration, that “inclusion” be used. “To promote greater awareness and the total inclusion of people with disabilities into all aspects of community life in the City of Riverside.” Commissioner Stream will bring a version back to the Commission during their next regular meeting.

B. Outreach and Education Plan

Motion: To table this issue to the next meeting.

M/S/C: Gregersen/DeLoss/Carried

C. Business Cards

Motion: To purchase business cards for the Commissioners

M/S/C: Welch/Garcia/Carried

VI. Items for future Commission consideration
Commissioner Garcia asked for further clarification on the Brown Act.

VII. Adjournment at 7:30
M/S/C: Robinson/DeLoss/Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Gray-O'Connor