



**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
AGENDA
Monday, June 8, 2009
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.”

State law restricts the Commission on Disabilities from taking action on an item unless it has been included on an agenda and posted at least 72 hours in advance of a meeting or unless the matter falls within one of the narrow exceptions. Consequently, any item not listed on this agenda will normally have to be delayed until the item can be made part of a posted agenda.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Debbie Keller, Paul Van Doren, Gene Brosious, Gigi Welch, Linda Garcia, Donald Hawecker, Virginia Werly, and Jack Brewer

Absent: (excused) Puffer, Robinson (unexcused) Stream

Also in attendance were Deputy Public Works Director Tom Boyd, Development Department Project Manager Joel Belding, Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki, 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.

In attendance were:

- a. Ben Juaregui _ Inland Empire Health Plan
- b. Mark Gomez _ Inland Empire Health Plan.
- c. Cecil Norris - Resident
- d. Donna Kirchoff - Inland Regional Center

Two letters were submitted via email by Cecil D. Green PhD for consideration by the COD. The first letter dated March 28, 2009 had originally been sent to Councilman Bailey and the second letter was dated May 11, 2009 addressed to the COD. Mr. Green's concern was the lack of sidewalks on Elizabeth Street by Riverside Avenue. This information will be forwarded to Public Works for investigation.

3. Minutes for the meeting of April 13, 2009 and May 11, 2009

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

AYES – 8 (Keller, Van Doren, Brosious, Welch, Garcia, Hawecker, Werly, Brewer), NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 3 (Robinson, Puffer, Stream)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Update on Downtown Pedestrian Mall - Tom Boyd, Deputy Public Works Director

Deputy Public Works Director Tom Boyd noted that Development Department Project Manager Joel Belding presented an update on the pedestrian mall project to the COD. Mr. Boyd would be available to answer any questions, if necessary.

Mr. Belding noted that the pedestrian mall project was on schedule and should be complete by November 1, 2009. He noted that the design had been revised and now the surface plaza area's, surface would be flush. He noted that two paver free walkways had been added in the block between 9th Street and University Avenue and he explained that the main justification for the pavers being throughout the project is access to the main water line that serves the mall. A major purpose for the mall project was to replace the 100 year old water line which needed upgrading. In the past, in order to access the waterline, it was necessary to cut the concrete and restore it with concrete that did not match the existing. Now, if the water main needs to be accessed, the pavers can be removed then replaced afterwards. For the long term, the mall can maintain its current appearance and allow access to the waterline when necessary.

Mr. Belding noted that another minor design change was the existing walls on the Mission Inn block which would now remain and receive a new surface instead of being replaced. He also noted that all of the existing trees would remain.

In response to a question from Commissioner Hawecker concerning the previous request by the COD for additional parking above the minimum required, Tom Boyd noted that there had been a parking study conducted about 2 years ago which indicated that current parking lots/garages contained above the required amount of disabled parking spaces, based on usage at various times and days. He noted that based on the parking surveys, ADA parking usage had been evaluated and as the lots were being renovated, additional ADA parking was added where there is a demand.

In response to a question from Commissioner Werly about the pedestrian mall surface (tumbled pavers) restricting access to businesses, Mr. Belding noted that the plans distributed for the CODs reference did not reflect that the final design was still being developed. He noted that smooth, scored concrete would cover the mall immediately adjacent to businesses and the tumbled pavers would run down the center of the mall, over the water main. Mr. Belding noted that there would also be smooth concrete crossings over the tumbled pavers at each end and mid block of both the Cal Tower and Mission Inn Avenue blocks. Pouring of new concrete will commence soon.

Mr. Belding noted that he would be available to follow up on any issues and answer any questions.

In response to a question from the COD concerning a tactile surface or curb at the 9th Street Pedestrian Mall crossing, Mr. Boyd noted that there had been a question about painting the curbs red on either side of the crosswalk. Mr. Boyd noted that no other intersection had been painted red and that current warnings were adequate, so it was decided not to paint the curb. Joel Belding noted that there are scored bands that arc around the radius of the crosswalk and bollards to block drivers from entering the mall area.

In response to an issue raised by Chairperson Keller concerning accessibility during construction, Mr. Belding noted that while the center section of the mall was being constructed, the sidewalks leading to businesses would be undisturbed. When the center areas are completed and sidewalks adjacent to businesses are under construction, the contractors are required to maintain compliant access to all of the businesses. If the City is causing businesses to be closed down, the City is typically paying for them to be closed. There may be some night work where access is closed, but when businesses are open, there will be ADA accessibility to traverse the construction and access businesses. The general circulation pattern in effect today will be maintained in some fashion.

In response to the COD question concerning the actual location of ADA accessible car and van spaces, Mr. Boyd noted that the pedestrian mall project was not changing the downtown parking configuration. Parking was located in private and public lots as well as parking garages. He noted that if there was a concern that there were not enough accessible parking spaces, let Public Works know and it would be investigated. Mr. Boyd noted that the last parking survey was done approximately 2 years ago.

In response to a COD comment concerning lack of on-street handicapped parking, Mr. Boyd noted that the City does not provide accessible parking on public streets because there was no legal requirement to provide such. He also noted that modification of streets to meet the required slopes for compliant access would be extremely costly and difficult because parking spaces cannot exceed a 2% slope along with a proper path of travel - this is not feasible in a public street. He noted that the lack of on-street parking is why it is so important for parking lots and structures to have sufficient accessible parking. Verification of accessible parking was the purpose of the parking survey. If there is a concern in any particular lot or structure, the City will investigate.

Commissioner Hawecker noted that concerning parking meters surrounding downtown, although there is no charge for use by disabled patrons, none of the meters are accessible and it is necessary to unload in the street. He noted that the streets being renovated could be modified for ADA compliance and could incorporate accessible parking spaces. Commissioner Brosious, who has a construction background, clarified that because the streets have so much crown and gutters for water control, to make that less than 2% is almost impossible on public streets. Even if it is a new street, compliance with the ADA would be almost impossible on a public street.

Mr. Boyd noted that if there was a concern that a particular parking lot or garage did not have adequate accessible parking, the City would be investigate. Commissioner Werly asked if there is a way to bridge the two issues of adequate accessible on-street and lot/garage parking. If a sign on the street directed patrons to accessible parking spaces, both issues would be addressed. Signage would be a reasonable way to let the disabled population know exactly where accessible parking is located.

Although there is handicapped parking in every parking lot and garage, Commissioner Werly noted that especially in areas where there was only perpendicular parking, there should be signs noting where the closest safe, accessible lots/garages are located. Mr. Boyd noted that the City has been working on a general parking guide program that would let people know where the parking structures are located. With the economic downturn, the parking program may not move forward, but there are currently signs posted that note the location of accessible parking lots and garages.

Commissioner Brosious noted that after downtown redevelopment started, more people started coming downtown and the parking survey results may now be different. Mr. Boyd noted that if it was appropriate, the parking survey could be done again.

In response to a question from Commissioner Van Doren concerning Fox Theatre parking, Mr. Belding responded that downtown had abundant parking after 5 pm; the Cal Tower lot would possibly be

available, and approximately 180 parking spaces would be available at the various parking lots adjacent to the pedestrian mall. Long term, a new parking structure is planned next to the Fox Theatre with elevator access into the building. Mr. Van Doren noted that it would be beneficial to strategically place signs concerning parking for out of town guests and Mr. Belding noted that there would be a big marketing push since the Fox would be a centerpiece of downtown activity. Mr. Belding noted that 3 additional ADA compliant parking spaces had also been added to the Stoddert Building located at 6th and Market Street. He asked that the COD inform him if they had suggestions for additional spaces in parking lots/garages. He also offered to provide one on one tours of the area and noted that he is available to answer questions about the California Relay Service.

Chairperson Keller requested updated parking maps of the City. It was noted that a City parking map can be found at <http://www.riversideca.gov/parking/>. The posted Downtown Riverside Parking Facilities notes that all parking lots and garages have parking for disabled persons. Deputy City Attorney Okazaki noted that all the downtown lots and garages exceeded the minimum requirement for accessible parking spaces and to his knowledge, there had not been any complaints about the availability of parking spaces. He noted that the parking survey had consisted of actually counting parking spaces to confirm that there was adequate handicapped parking.

2. Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) Presentation – Mark Gomes, Disability Community Representative

IEHP Disability Community Representative Mark Gomes came to discuss the Inland Empire Disability Collaborative (IEDC). IEHP is a managed care system that is supposed to improve the quality, accessibility and delivery of healthcare and be cost effective at the local level. Medical is not a health plan, but the funding source to IEHP. IEHP was ranked the #1 Medical Health Plan in California by U.S. World Report.

Ben Juaregui, IEHP Program Manager, was introduced as the IEDC founder. IEHP is a Medical health plan. The Medical plan is a program for seniors, people with disabilities and low income families. There are 2 ways to receive Medical in California, either regular pay-for-service or through a health plan such as IEHP or a joint power entity. IEHP is a non-profit organization for Riverside and San Bernardino counties and is a public entity, which means public accountability. IEHP is also a HMO health plan. IEHP provides the same services as Medicare, but also additional services such as care coordination. There are nurses at IEHP that will coordinate a patient's care with issues such as transportation, medication, durable medical equipment, wheelchairs and whatever else a member needs to stay healthy.

A person with disabilities has usually encountered barriers with accessing health care and IEHP is available to help members' access health care. There are also 24 hour nurse health advice lines and urgent care centers. Membership is free.

Response to questions:

1. The only requirement is that the patients have Medical benefits or receive SSI benefits.
2. Because of State budget cuts, the amount of services provided will need to be limited.
3. Is 24 hour nursing covered? In-home nursing care is provided, but not for 24 hours. If it is provided by Medical, IEHP will also provide it.
4. To join, you call IEHP at the 800 number; you will be transferred to Health Care Options, then services can begin within 35 days.
5. A potential patient will not be refused if eligible for Medical.
6. Patients do not lose Medical benefits if IEHP is used, the benefits are transferred.
7. You can switch doctors as often as necessary and IEHP will help you switch doctors.
8. There are many pharmacy locations available and home delivery is also available.

9. Classes are offered through Community Access Center about health issues like stop smoking, diabetes, etc.
10. Wheelchair assessments are available in the patient's home.

Mr. Juaregui noted that IEDC was started because he noticed that there was no collaboration among the disability community. IEDC serves the disabled community and seniors and there are 74 organizations in the collaborative. The collaborative consists of community based organizations, non-profit organizations, health care, employment agencies, City and County agencies, private businesses, advocates. The mission is to promote equal opportunity, universal access and full participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of life in our communities. The collaborative network, builds cooperative relationships, advocate for people with disabilities, forms partnerships and hopes to benefit the community at large. IEDC's focus is health, employment, transportation, advocacy, housing and assistive technology.

The purpose of the 2006 expo was to showcase services, products and resources available in the Inland Empire for people with all types of disability (including physical, cognitive, psychiatric mental; there were 80 vendors, 1,200 participants and \$35,000 was raised by sponsorships. For 2008, there were over 100 vendors, and 1,800 participants and \$65,000 was received in sponsorships. The next expo will be in 2010. Membership is free. The only request is a commitment to the mission, attendance at meetings and a commitment to contribute something (if non monetary, time, volunteers...).

There will be a IEDC conference for people with disabilities at Cal Baptist University on October 10, 2009, there is no cost to attend and lunch will be provided.

11. Discussion: Proposed Revision to COD Meeting Dates (August, December 2009)

M/S Brewer/Werly and unanimous to go dark in August and December 2009.

AYES – 8 (Keller, Van Doren, Brosious, Welch, Garcia, Hawecker, Werly, Brewer), NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 3 (Robinson, Puffer, Stream)

12. Standing Rules Revision – Regular Meeting Location Change

M/S Werly/Welch and unanimous to revise the Standing Rules (Section 6F) as follows:

The City Manager has designated a representative of the ~~Community Relations Division~~ General Services Department to act as liaison for the recording of minutes of the Commission on Disabilities. The minutes shall be kept on file in the ~~Community Relations Division~~ General Services Department and shall be available for public inspection.

AYES – 8 (Keller, Van Doren, Brosious, Welch, Garcia, Hawecker, Werly, Brewer), NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 3 (Robinson, Puffer, Stream)

OLD BUSINESS

COD Community Outreach Participation – This item will be delayed to the September 14, 2009 COD meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Mayor's Night Out, June 24, 2009, Ward 7.
2. Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative (IEDC) Conference October 2009

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

1. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Smart Brief
2. Andulka Park Photos – Universally Accessible Play Structure
3. Standing Report from Code Enforcement concerning Sidewalk Obstruction by Trash Containers and Vehicles (standing report)

Date	Postcards Distributed by Code Enforcement
June 2008	40
July 2008	20
August 2008	45
September 2008	135
October 2008	113
November 2008	14
December 2008	0
January 2009	0
February 2009	0
March 2009	0
April 2009	0
May 2009	pending

ADJOURNMENT: 7:45 pm