



COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES MINUTES Monday, August 11, 2008 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: 6:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Debbie Keller, Paul Van Doren, James Stream, Gene Brosious, Gigi Welch, Linda Garcia, and Donald Hawecker

Absent (excused): Lesley Robinson, Virginia Werly, Suzanne Puffer.

Also present was Councilperson Mike Gardner, 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.*
 - a. Resident Roberta Dabo is sight impaired and noted that she was unable to walk to City Hall from 9th Street. She also noted that there were no signs posted announcing ADA route detours during construction. She would have approached City Hall a different way if signs had been posted earlier.
 - b. Resident Carol Martin noted that the new cobblestone pavement on the pedestrian mall in front of City Hall was difficult to travel on with her walker.
 - c. Resident John Lonberg noted that City Hall handicapped parking had been relocated.

Additional City Hall Handicapped Parking

Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki addressed the COD in relation to the construction taking place outside City Hall and on Main Street. He noted that two handicapped parking spaces against 10th Street were relocated due to construction on the handicapped ramp leading to City Hall's main entrance. These two spaces were relocated to the west side of City Hall which is also accessible via a second handicapped ramp on the west side of the building. City Hall currently has three west side handicapped spaces which exceed the minimum number of parking spaces required.

Resident Lonberg requested that the original parking space be reinstated on the front side of City Hall. He also asked concerning the minimum handicapped parking requirements - although three spaces are required in that area, why is it a problem for a fourth space to be added?

Pedestrian Mall Cobblestones

Resident Carol Martin noted that the new cobblestone pedestrian mall surface made it difficult to maneuver with her walker.

The COD discussed the special meeting on July 23, 2007 where Public Works presented plans for the pedestrian mall renovation to the COD. During this presentation, the landscape architect noted that the pavers would be tight fitting and very smooth. As it turns out, the paver surface is not very smooth. It was suggested that possibly some type of epoxy coating could be added on top of the cobblestones to smooth the surface for wheelchair users, cane and walker users and others with mobility impairments.

In response to Ms. Martin's concern, Councilman Gardner noted that there was smooth concrete on either side of the cobblestone surface. He would ask about the possibility of an epoxy coating to smooth the cobblestone surface.

Resident Lonberg asked if it would be possible to add periodic smooth concrete across the width of the cobblestone so that wheelchairs, walkers or other assistive devices could cross the cobblestones on a smooth surface.

Councilman Gardner noted that a smooth periodic surface across the width of the cobblestones was a good idea. **He advised that he would get more information and report back to the COD by the next meeting, September 8, 2008.**

Movie Protest: Tropic Thunder

Commissioner Stream discussed an informational item presented to the COD. The item was to bring attention to a Dreamworks movie called Tropic Thunder. Tropic Thunder negatively depicts individuals with intellectual disabilities and is being protested/boycotted by the disabled community. He noted that the national organization, Arc of the United States and other disability groups were also protesting the movie. The intellectually disabled are a disadvantaged group who are attempting to procure housing, employment and trying to assimilate into our communities as much as possible. This negative depiction of them is not acceptable. **The COD requested that this information be presented in the next COD packet.**

The Nine/Zero Game/Prevention Program

Commissioner Stream wanted to publicize this fundraiser for sponsorship of a program advocating zero alcohol for nine months. Ingesting alcohol during pregnancy is the leading cause of fetal alcohol syndrome.

Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative

The Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative will hold its biannual Disability Resources Expo on Thursday, October 23, 2008 from 9 am - 2 pm at Loma Linda University Medical Center. This expo would reach Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. **Add this item to the September 8, 2008 agenda.**

Governor's Office of Emergency Services – Office for Access and Functional Needs

Commissioner Van Doren noted that the Governor's office for Access and Functional Needs (OAFN) was a division of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. This office is developing a community network with the purpose of enhancing communication in order to identify needs and locate resources for those individuals with disability and elderly, impacted by a disaster. The first step in this process is to develop a database of community-based organizations that are either the state association or providing direct services to the people with disabilities and elderly. The database will be utilized to communicate potential disaster situations, identify needs and resources during disasters and in recovery.

Emergency Services Manager Anthony Coletta encouraged the COD to register although the COD does not provide direct services. He noted that information is always good **so the COD will register with this office on behalf of the City.** This registration will tie in with the COD's community outreach effort with the target audience of disabled and elderly residents who may need help with preparing for a disaster. Any information gathered concerning specific resident needs will be forwarded to the OAFN.

The COD discussed that emergency shelters need to have some durable medical equipment available in case residents are unable to evacuate their own equipment. Generators should also be readily available for people requiring electricity to operate equipment such as wheelchairs and ventilators. Also, refrigerators need to be in the emergency shelters to store medication such as insulin. OAFN was established to start addressing problems from the point of view of people with disabilities. Major areas such as communication, transportation, emergency shelters and durable medical equipment will be addressed.

As part of the community outreach, the COD will attempt to get a sense of the various needs in the community and relay that information to the OAFN and organizations such as Red Cross.

Communication Services

Commissioner Brosious noted that he witnessed that the Social Security office in the City of Riverside had not provided a sign language interpreter for a deaf woman.

Commissioner Van Doren noted that the Community Access Center provided advocates for the disabled who require services. The CAC will make sure that the disabled person has assistance for communication with sufficient notice.

3. Minutes for the meeting of June 9, 2008 and the Park and Recreation Commission minutes for June 9, 2008.

Commissioner Brosious was concerned that at the beginning of the Joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission on June 9, 2008, there was not a COD quorum. Commissioner Hawecker left the meeting to meet his transportation, thereby leaving less than a quorum of the COD. The COD was concerned that they participated in the vote to approve the Fairmont Park Universally Accessible Playground conceptual plans with less than a COD quorum.

The COD discussed that as of the June 9 meeting, the handicapped parking plan was not finalized for Fairmont Park. Parks staff was open to installing more than the minimum amount of handicapped parking required since this facility would draw a large number of disabled residents. **The COD requested the opportunity to review the parking plan for this project before it is approved.**

M/S Hawecker/Brosious to approve the minutes as corrected.

Corrections to the Parks and Recreation minutes: Linda Garcia was in attendance and should be added to the Commissioners Present; page 3, paragraph 8, Commissioner Hawecker's name is misspelled; page 4, paragraph 7, Commissioner Brosious' name is misspelled.

STAFF NOTE: Brosious, Hawecker, Keller, Stream, Welch, Werly, Garcia were in attendance. After Hawecker left, there was still a quorum of 6.

AYES – 6 (Keller, Stream, Brosious, Welch, Garcia, Hawecker); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN -1 (Van Doren); ABSENT – (Puffer, Robinson, Werly)

OLD BUSINESS

4. Discussion carried over from June 9, 2009: Jurupa Grade Change – ADA Accessibility (Public Works Photos)

Commissioner Hawecker noted that he had updated photos of the site available and that he would have them developed. When the new site photos are available, **a new meeting will be arranged with the Deputy Public Works Director. Chairperson Keller would also like to attend.**

Commissioner Hawecker noted that this construction project has been going on for about 6 months. He noted that on the west side of Jurupa, there was a complete sidewalk. The construction cut off part of the sidewalk on the opposite side of the road. On the opposite side of the road, there was never an existing sidewalk. A temporary sidewalk was constructed but where the temporary sidewalk ends, it leads to nothing and ends abruptly. So from where the old sidewalk ends, you must cross Jurupa in traffic to reach the temporary sidewalk, then where the temporary sidewalk ends, you must again cross Jurupa in traffic to reach the existing sidewalk again. He noted that it is a busy street and at certain times of the day, the sun can affect the driver's ability to see people crossing Jurupa. He would like to propose a temporary crosswalk and stop sign at each end of the temporary sidewalk so that pedestrians can safely cross the street where necessary.

The COD discussed that the temporary sidewalk be made accessible on the same side of the street so that there was no need to cross Jurupa. Commissioner Hawecker noted that due to construction, there was no way to construct a temporary sidewalk all on the same side of the street.

The COD recognizes that Public Works will be conducting grade realignments throughout the City in the future. **The COD would like to review temporary construction route plans for accessible path of travel before construction projects begin.**

5. Discussion: COD Annual Report to City Council – January 2009

The COD is schedule to present their annual report to City Council in January of 2009. In an effort to start and complete this project early, a subcommittee is being formed: Linda Garcia, Gigi Welch, Debbie Keller and Paul Van Doren will serve on this subcommittee. **The subcommittee will meet before the next COD meeting on September 8, 2008.**

NEW BUSINESS

6. Community Outreach – Disabled Disaster Preparedness Pamphlet

Chairperson Keller noted that Emergency Services Manager Anthony Coletta, Chairperson Debra Keller and ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon met to discuss development of a Disabled Disaster Preparedness pamphlet. This pamphlet would be used in the scheduled outreach effort to reach, through established community groups, residents who are disabled and require help preparing for a disaster. The goal of this pamphlet is also to help neighbors be aware of who their disabled neighbors are and what their specific needs are. If a disaster occurred, the disabled residents will especially need to be prepared in case of an emergency. Rescue efforts may take some number of days to reach those who need help and it is important to be prepared and self-sufficient until help arrives. The pamphlet would be used to reach residents and also reference the larger, more detailed, 48 page document titled Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities, developed by the Red Cross.

Emergency Services Manager Anthony Coletta agreed that the smaller pamphlet would be useful in reaching the target audience: neighbors of the disabled and the disabled themselves.

The COD discussed that this pamphlet could be used to hand out at neighborhood meetings and other events as needed.

7. Proposed Utility Bill Mailing for October 2008.

M/S Welch/Brosious and unanimous to proceed with another utility bill mailing for October 2008 in order to let residents know about the COD purpose, meeting location, date and time.

AYES – 7 (Keller, Stream, Brosious, Welch, Garcia, Hawecker, Van Doren); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – (Puffer, Robinson, Werly)

8. Information: A Guide to Disability Rights Laws

The guide is an overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act and contains a summary of each section of the ADA, notes how to receive additional information and where/how to file grievances.

The ADA Standards for Accessible Design contains the full formatted text and graphics, as published in the Code of Federal Regulations, complete with links to figures, graphics and cross-referenced sections, making it easier for users to quickly read and understand related requirements for buildings and facilities. This document sets guidelines for accessibility to places of public accommodation and commercial facilities by individuals with disabilities. These guidelines are to be applied during the design, construction, and alteration of such buildings and facilities to the extent required by regulations issued by Federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. All of this information is available at www.ada.gov under ADA Standards for Accessible Design (28 CFR Part 36, revised July 1, 1994).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 8, 2008 - Free Hearing Screening and Equipment Distribution – Janet Goeske Senior Center

It was noted that a physician and an audiologist would be in attendance at this event.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

A. Discussion Item: Public Service Announcement concerning Proper Placement of Trash Containers in conjunction with Public Works Solid Waste Division –Next Steps

10. INFORMATIONAL ITEM

A. Performance Measurement from Code Enforcement concerning Sidewalk Obstruction by Trash Containers and Vehicles (standing report)

Date	Postcards Distributed by Code Enforcement
January 2008	70
February 2008	0
March 2008	0
April 2008	201
May 2008	0
June 2008	40
July 2008	20

11. ADJOURNMENT: 7:30 pm