



**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
MINUTES
Monday, September 8, 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: Gigi Welch, Paul Van Doren, James Stream, Gene Brosious, Suzanne Puffer, Linda Garcia, Lesley Robinson, Donald Hawecker, and Virginia Werly

Absent (excused): Debbie Keller

Also present was General Services Director Kris Martinez, Deputy Public Works Director Tom Boyd, Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki, Construction Contracts Administrator Sean Gill, and ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon.

2. Introductions and Public Comment Period

- a. Resident Carol Martin suggested that the COD have satellite meetings at different locations in order to involve more interested residents. She suggested locations such as Rubidoux Manor and meeting during the business day instead of after 5 pm.

Commissioner Werly suggested that instead of the COD visiting various locations that community center coordinators be invited to COD meetings. The coordinators from each senior center can share information about the concerns of their respective residents' communities and bring awareness to the City at large.

- b. Donna Kirchoff – Inland Regional Center.

3. Minutes for the meeting of August 11, 2008

M/S Garcia/Hawecker to approve the August 11, 2008 minutes as presented.

AYES - 6 (Welch, Van Doren, Stream, Brosious, Garcia, Hawecker), NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 3 (Robinson, Werly, Puffer), ABSENT – 1 (Keller).

OLD BUSINESS

4. Discussion: Pedestrian Mall Cobblestones and Review of Final Landscape Plans

Construction Contracts Administrator Sean Gill noted that the project had been reviewed in consideration of the COD's concerns about the pavers (cobblestones). Mr. Gill advised that no changes would be made to the existing paver design which was already installed, but design changes would be considered for later phases of the project.

Commissioner Hawecker noted that it was possible to avoid the cobblestone pavers by entering City Hall via the secondary entrance.

Commissioner Robinson noted that the pavers could be problematic for residents who were challenged by issues of balance, who used walkers and canes, and had a tendency to fall.

The COD discussed the possibility of there being a cut-out for dial-a-ride buses on 9th Street. Deputy Public Works Director Tom Boyd noted that there was not enough room on 9th Street to accommodate a bus or Para transit stop.

Commissioner Hawecker asked about the possibility of on-street handicapped parking between 5th and 6th Streets. He noted that this area has always been a big parking problem. There seems to be an increase in people eligible for handicapped spaces and handicapped spaces were becoming more difficult to find. Deputy Public Works Director Tom Boyd noted that a survey had been conducted concerning downtown parking lots and additional parking had been added as a result of the survey.

5. Jurupa Grade Change and ADA Accessibility – Photos from Commissioner Hawecker

The COD discussed this construction area and noted that on the west side of Jurupa, there was an ADA sidewalk. When construction began, a temporary sidewalk had been added to the opposite side of Jurupa. When a pedestrian was using Jurupa, it was necessary to cross this very dangerous street. Photos of the area were presented. Commissioner Hawecker noted that the situation was not so bad when Mt. View Avenue was open, but now that it was closed, pedestrians needed to use Jurupa to visit shopping locations.

Deputy Public Works Director Tom Boyd noted that when this issued first came to his attention, he researched and visited the area. He noted that on the north side of Jurupa, there appeared to be a traversable path of travel. Because the north side path existed, the path was moved to the south side of the street in an effort to provide adequate pedestrian access. This is a challenging area. Years ago, a decision had been made to not put a sidewalk on the south side of the street. When the project is complete, there will be full sidewalks on both sides of the street for the length of the construction; from Tuscon, north as far as the sidewalk extends west. He noted that for the next grade separation project, the sidewalks will be closed.

In response to Commissioner Hawecker's question concerning if the COD could review the Magnolia grade separation plans for temporary ADA access routes, Deputy Public Works Director Tom Boyd responded yes.

Deputy Public Works Director Tom Boyd noted that by the end of the current month, the Jurupa tracts will be moved back onto the new bridge. Next the under bridge plug will be removed and half of the road will be built along with the required paving and sidewalk for that side. Traffic will be moved onto the new road and then the other half of the road will be completed. The project should be essentially complete by mid-December 2008.

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

The COD discussed that the subcommittee on this subject had met and that Commissioner Garcia was currently working on the first draft of the document. The first draft will be presented to the COD for input and comment.

7. Update: Universally Accessible Playground Update – Handicapped Parking

The COD discussed the rough parking sketch that was submitted by Park and Recreation Project Manager Randy McDaniel. He noted that Parks and Recreation would be pushing forward with the COD's recommendations for including more than the minimum number of handicap parking spaces at Fairmont Park for patrons of the upcoming universally accessible playground. When a plan was ready to present, he would forward it to the COD for review.

8. Update: Community Outreach – Disabled Disaster Preparedness Pamphlet

The COD discussed that the process of preparing this pamphlet was taking longer than expected. A draft of this pamphlet will be submitted for COD review as soon as possible.

Discussion continued concerning various issues surrounding disabled disaster preparedness such as the fact that back-up batteries would be needed to charge powered wheel chairs. Generators were not practical because gas generators had to be operated outside. Also, it is not practical to keep additional wheelchair batteries on hand in case of emergency. Manual back up wheelchairs would likely be a better choice. What about residents who required power for ventilators? There are many questions to be addressed on this topic.

Vice-Chair Welch displayed a disaster preparedness kit that could be purchased already assembled. The COD discussed the possibility of making them available in the community to disabled residents.

M/S Hawecker/Van Doren and unanimous to move forward with the pamphlet as presented in limited quantities and request changes later.

AYES – 9 (Welch, Hawecker, Van Doren, Puffer, Robinson, Brosious, Stream, Werly, Garcia); NOES – 1; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 1 (Keller).

NEW BUSINESS

9. Discussion: Raising Community Awareness about the Developmentally Disabled in the City of Riverside

Commissioner Stream discussed that a survey had been conducted that substantiated the fact that many did not regard people who were developmentally disabled as part of the handicapped community. The COD discussed how it can help bring awareness to the developmentally disabled community. Commissioner Stream discussed how the term “retard” was frequently used in reference to the developmentally disabled. He noted that events were taking place nation-wide to engage people in conversation concerning this issue and other misinformed attitudes. He also noted that the movie protests were reactive but that the ARC organization was moving forward to proactively bring awareness to issues concerning the developmentally disabled community.

10. Update: Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative – Booth Reservation for October 23, 2008

This item was noted by the COD. A deposit had been sent to reserve a booth at this event which will take place from 9 am to 2 pm at the Loma Linda University Medical Center - Drayson Center, 25040 Stewart Street in Loma Linda, 92354. Call 909-558-4975 for additional information.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

Noted by the COD.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11. 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

12. 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
August 2008	45

13. ADJOURNMENT: 7:30 pm