



COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

MINUTES

Monday, September 14, 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.”

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Debbie Keller, Paul Van Doren, James Stream, Gene Brosious, Gigi Welch, Lesley Robinson, Virginia Werly, Jack Brewer and Ty Lawyer

ABSENT: Donald Hawecker and Linda Garcia (excused):

Also present were: Councilmember Mike Gardner, City Clerk Colleen Nicol, 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. Megan Lopez – Best Buddies Chapter President, Norte Vista High School
 - b. Bryan Peairs – Best Buddies Special Education Advisor, Norte Vista West High School
 - c. Grace Amos – Best Buddies Vice-President
 - d. Alesis Solis – Best Buddies Treasurer
 - e. Lilia Lozada – Best Buddies Historian
 - f. Maria Chaparro – Best Buddies Commission on Fundraising
 - g. Alejandra Cortez – Best Buddies Peer Buddy
 - h. David Huante – Best Buddies Peer Buddy
 - i. Sharon Acama – Ramona High School, Chairperson of Very Special Arts Fair
 - j. Bill Briscoll – Ramona High School
 - k. Linda Lawyer – Attending in support of Ty Lawyer’s appointment to the COD
 - l. Donna Kirchoff – Inland Regional Center
 - m. Ruthee Goldkorn – was concerned that accessible parking was not in the scope of work for the Fairmount Park accessible playground.

- n. John Lonberg – raised concerns about a City Hall disabled parking space striped incorrectly and the lack of on-street parking in Riverside. Mr. Lonberg also submitted written concerns about lack of accessible parking in the City of Riverside.

3. Minutes for the meeting of June 8, 2009

M/S Welch/Brewer and unanimous to approve the minutes as presented.

AYES - 8 (Keller, Van Doren, Brosious, Welch, Stream, Robinson, Werly, Brewer); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 2 (Hawecker, Garcia).

NEW BUSINESS

1. Oath of Office Administered by City Clerk Nicol to new Commissioner Tyrell Lawyer.

Tyrell Lawyer was sworn in by City Clerk Colleen Nicol. Councilmember Mike Gardner attended in support of Commissioner Lawyer's appointment.

2. Best Buddies Presentation - Megan Lopez

Best Buddies Chapter President Megan Lopez and Chapter Officers provided members of the COD with a good understanding of what the Best Buddies organization is, and how it functions at Norte Vista High School. Best Buddies is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Best Buddies introduces socialization opportunities and job coaching, providing the necessary tools for people with intellectual disabilities to become more independent and, consequently, more included in the overall Riverside community.

Best Buddies operates on more than 1,400 college, high school and middle school campuses, principally in the United States, but also in 41 other countries. Best Buddies observes strict fiscal principles - 89% of all revenue goes directly to Best Buddies programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, while only 11% is spent on administration and fundraising expenses. For example, Norte Vista High School held a "carnival" on Friday, October 9 and netted a profit for the Best Buddies organization of more than \$300. This was possible only due to the many hours of volunteer work provided by Best Buddies officers and members.

How can the COD help Best Buddies? Although Best Buddies has advanced tremendously during its 20 year existence, many areas of the country still lack programs to help people with intellectual disabilities become part of mainstream society. Here in Riverside, we are faced with the elimination of the program manager's position and consolidation with the Los Angeles region. This puts additional burdens on Norte Vista's Best Buddies officers and advisers requiring them to maintain and expand the programs that are extremely helpful to the disabled. It is our hope that members of the COD, with experience in dealing with the disabled, will be able to recommend programs and policies that facilitate the continued efficacy of the Best Buddies organization at Norte Vista High School.

3. The Arc of Riverside County Special Advocacy Award to City Attorney Greg Priamos (Jim Stream)

The Arc of Riverside County presented the Special Advocacy Award to City Attorney Greg Priamos at the Marriott Hotel on June 26, 2009. This award was presented to City Attorney Priamos in large part because of his work concerning the location of Residential Facilities for People with Disabilities and Children.

4. Cancellation of 2009 Utility Bill Insert mailing

Due to budget constraints, the annual utility bill insert mailing was cancelled.

5. Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative Participation

In response to a request from the COD, the ADA Coordinator will verify that booths for this event are for sponsors of the event – booths for this event are not without cost.

Commissioner Werly, Riverside Transit Agency, will participate in the presentation of a workshop titled Critical Transit Topics and Strategies for Success. Similarly, Commissioner Van Doren, Community Access Center, will participate in the presentation of a workshop titled Community Based Service/Long Term Care Options.

6. Handicapped Parking Enforcement

The Riverside Police Department has a Handicapped Parking Enforcement Unit. Its members consist of four volunteers that use city vehicles to patrol and enforce handicap-parking violations. More information on Traffic Investigations can be found at: www.riversideca.gov/rpd/traffic/traffic.htm or call 951-797-7911

OLD BUSINESS

1. COD Community Outreach Participation (Debbie Keller)

Chairperson Keller noted that over the next 2 months, she would be making appointments with individual Council members in order bring any ward specific disabilities concerns to their attention and get their input on any areas of concern. Ms. Keller verified that COD members would be interested in attending these meeting with their Council member. The COD members were in agreement and also discussed various other methods of contacting the community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Mayor's Night Out, September 30, 2009, Ward 5 - Ramona Monroe Elementary.

Noted by the COD.

2. Disability Sports Festival, October 3, 2009 – San Bernardino

Noted by the COD.

3. Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative (IEDC) Conference October 10, 2009

Noted by the COD.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Review Workplan for Upcoming Projects
2. The COD requested that staff from Public Works and Parks, Recreation and Community Services return to discuss issues of concern from the community.

These items will be included on the October 19, 2009 agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:15 pm

There is no audio file available for this meeting.