



**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
MINUTES
Monday, October 19, 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, Linda Garcia, Donald Hawecker, Virginia Werly, Jack Brewer and Ty Lawyer

Lesley Robinson arrived at 6:30 pm due to transportation difficulties.

ABSENT: Virginia Werly (excused)

Also in attendance: General Services Director Kris Martinez, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Ralph Nunez, Deputy Public Works Director Tom Boyd, Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki, Senior Park Planner Andy Emery, ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon.

A motion was raised to hear item #1 under New Business before the public comment period in order to accommodate Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCSD) staff schedule. The PRCSD staff needed to attend the Parks Commission meeting across town at 6:30 pm.

M/S Brewer/Lawyer to adjust the agenda order.

AYES – 9; NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT - 2 (Robinson, Werly)

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 was:

- a. Mark Gomez - Inland Empire Health Plan
- b. Donna Kirchoff - Inland Regional Center
- c. Linda Lawyer - Resident

Paul Van Doren requested an update on the Fox Theater accessibility. General Services Director Martinez noted that she would be touring the facility and would provide an oral report to the COD at the November meeting.

3. Minutes for the meeting of September 14, 2009

M/S Brewer/Robinson to approve the minutes as presented:

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Update on Universally Accessible Playgrounds (Ralph Nunez)

Sr. Park Planner Andy Emery presented a current design drawing of the universally accessible playground at Fairmount Park to the COD. He noted that the project was under construction, that there will be adequate access to the playground from various directions/parking lots and that there would be adequate disabled parking available. He noted that the park would have improved walkways with smooth surfaces – no pavers would be used. School buses and vans would also have access. Mr. Emery noted that there was a lot of space for parking and the spaces are large.

In response to COD questions concerning the park bathrooms, Director Nunez noted that for this project, the disabled parking would be double the number required. He noted that the project had been delayed due to funding complications, but some of the playground features had been enhanced, i.e. expansion of the path of travel from the parking lots surrounding the area. Mr. Nunez noted that he would be open to providing additional disabled parking. He also noted that the bathrooms would be made fully accessible. The playground grand opening will be in March 2010.

2. Accessible Parking in City Lots and Garages (Tom Boyd)

Deputy Public Works Director Boyd provided a summary of all the City lots and garages and noted how many disabled parking spaces were included. A map of the parking lots/garages will be provided in the next packet. He noted that the minimum number of parking spaces is designated in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Boyd explained that approximately 2 years ago, a parking study had been conducted to make sure that the required number of disabled spaces existed in each garage/lot and that there was a ratio of disabled parking that needed to be van accessible.

In response to Commissioner Hawecker's comment concerning the lack of handicapped parking between 10th and 13th streets. The disabled community can park for free, but there is no space to load and unload nor are there any van accessible spaces. There is no on-street parking.

Mr. Boyd noted that there was no handicapped on-street parking in the City because many City streets are narrow. He suggested that this issue might need to be dealt with by the City as a whole.

3. 2010 Commission on Disabilities Meeting Schedule

This item was noted by the COD

4. 2009 Work Plan Review

Commissioner Van Doren will present a summary report on the City's housing element at the next meeting. He will also present information concerning grants available for rental home modifications for the disabled community. He noted that the City of Riverside uses the Riverside Housing Development Corporation to facilitate home modifications. There is an income requirement and you would need to have lived in the home for a specified amount of time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mayor's Night Out, October 28, 2009, Ward 4, 6:30 pm Washington Elementary School.

It was noted that Mr. Brewer attended this event on behalf of the COD.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:06 pm