



**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
MINUTES
Monday, October 20, 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, Gene Brosious, Suzanne Puffer, Linda Garcia, Lesley Robinson, Donald Hawecker, and Virginia Werly

Commissioner Stream arrived after roll call at 6:07 pm.

Absent (unexcused): Gigi Welch.

Also present was Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki, Recreation Supervisor Jerry Hurley, Assistant Recreation Coordinator Janet Magana 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. The Mayor's office distributed information advising the COD that they could ride RTA buses free with City identification.
 - b. Commissioner Stream provided an update on ARC Riverside's Nine Zero Games Charity Event.
 - c. Commissioner Robinson noted that she and ADA Coordinator Gordon had attended the City of Compton's Annual Disability Awareness Luncheon. Commissioner Robinson distributed COD promotional material at the event and shared the newly developed disabled disaster preparedness information with the City of Compton's COD. She noted that she is proud of what the COD has accomplished in the last two years.

Commissioner Robinson shared with the City of Compton how the COD was developed through a vision that Mayor Loveridge had, explained how commissioners are selected for the COD and noted how important it was for Riverside to network with other commissions on disability. She noted that the City of Riverside was ahead of many jurisdictions concerning disabilities issues. She suggested that the COD send the City of Compton a copy of the Annual Report to the City Council after it has been received by Council in January 2009.

- d. ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon noted that she had attended disabilities awareness training at the City of Glendale. The City of Glendale requires all employees to attend this training which makes them aware of various forms of disability and how to properly respond, if required.

Commissioner Werly described the empathy training that RTA provides for drivers and noted that complaints decrease considerably after these trainings. Commissioner Van Doren noted that he has participated in empathy training for transit drivers, Cal Trans Managers, Walmart and other organizations. The COD noted that empathy training of some type would be considered for a future project.

3. Minutes for the meeting of September 8, 2008

M/S Hawecker/Robinson to approve the September 8, 2008 minutes as corrected:

AYES – 8 (Van Doren, Stream, Brosious, Puffer, Garcia, Robinson, Hawecker, Werly); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 1 (Keller); ABSENT – 1 (Welch)

OLD BUSINESS

4. Inland Empire Disabilities Expo October 23, 2008 – Booth Attendance Schedule

The COD worked out a schedule to staff the event booth at the Inland Empire Disabilities Expo.

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

A draft of the annual council report was included in the COD packet for the COD's review and comment. The COD discussed items outstanding and when the next draft was due. The COD discussed that a PowerPoint presentation would accompany the report. The video that the COD produced would be included along with other information concerning the COD's work. The sidewalk obstruction postcard and other information would be included. Also past commissioners would be included in the annual report.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Community Center Information: Disabled/Elderly Programs and Information – Community Services Superintendent La Shawn Butler

ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon introduced staff from Parks, Recreation and Community Services. At the September 8, 2008 COD meeting, Resident Carol Martin suggested that the COD have satellite meetings at different locations in order to involve more interested residents. In response to Ms. Martin's suggestion, Commissioner Werly suggested that instead of the COD visiting various locations, that PRCS community center coordinators be invited to COD meetings. Recreation Supervisor Jerry Hurley and Assistant Recreation Coordinator Janet Magana were in attendance in response to that recommendation.

Recreation Supervisor Jerry Hurley, one of five supervisors in the City of Riverside noted that he is directly in charge of the people and programs at Hunt Park, La Sierra Park, Viejas Park as well as special events throughout the year. He noted that he was privileged to be responsible for the summer food program this year. The summer food program provided a free summer lunch that served 31,000 meals this past summer, which is 5,000 more meals than served last year and 4,000 more than served the year before that. This program indicated some of the challenges in the City. The Parks program was pleased to provide what may have been the best meal of the day for young people during the summer. He was also responsible for excursions where kids were sent out of the City and he was very pleased when they all returned. He mentioned the Friendly Stars program and recognized Commissioner Garcia as one of the athletes from the corporate games which is a mini-Olympics conducted every year. Mr. Hurley noted that there were already a number of connections between the COD and PRCS.

Mr. Hurley noted that there were 11 community centers in the City, not counting Janet Goeske. He noted that these centers should be the main focus of each of the communities where residents could have access to recreation related services or referral for services. The community center job is to service the youth, teens, adults, and seniors that includes residents who are disabled. He looks forward to seeing if there are opportunities for PRCS to work with the COD by making the centers available or help PRCS staff to be more in tuned with the needs of residents with disabilities. He invited the COD to use PRCS centers.

Commissioner Werly suggested that representatives from the centers could attend COD meetings on a rotational basis and bring issues to the COD as related to the disabled community.

Mr. Hurley noted that his superintendent was interested in sending a definite representative each month, although it probably would not be him. He noted that Community Services Recreational Supervisor Dawn Pia would most likely be in regular attendance. He noted that Recreation Supervisor Pia was directly responsible for the Dale Senior Center's programming. Mr. Hurley noted that one of the PRCS current challenges was that part-time hours had been drastically reduced, due to budget constraints, and there were only two benefitted staff at each center: A Recreation Services Coordinator who works 40 hours per week and is directly in charge of a community center; then there is an assistant recreation coordinator who works 29 hours per week. Because there were fewer people working part time hours, staffing at the various community centers was very lean. He was open to suggestions concerning collaborative ideas between the COD and PRCS.

Commissioner Van Doren noted that he appreciated Mr. Hurley attending and noted that the advantage of a PRCS representative attending even occasionally was that PRCS Coordinators would become more familiar with the COD. PRCS interacts with residents from all ages and types of disabilities. If someone had an issue concerning a disability, PRCS would be somewhat informed and could let the public know about the COD meetings, where they can get input, referral services or help with specific problems. The COD can be used as a resource for the community centers.

Mr. Hunley agreed and noted that if residents came into the community center with a problem, the issue should be resolved since community centers were where the real recreation and real work is done – with the people out in the field. He noted that Janet Magana had more of a prospective from the east side and would be equipped to comment.

Assistant Recreation Coordinator Janet Magana noted that he helped at Bobby Bonds, Pattersen, Boardwell and Lincoln Park. She has been with the City since January 2008 and enjoys her work. She will inform her organization about the COD because she was unaware that the COD met on a regular basis. She provided

the COD with informational guides that noted various activities and information about the community center programs.

In response to Commissioner Hawecker's question about if the City Sponsored computer classes would be ending in January 200, Ms. Magana noted that there were still sign ups for the class but there were long waiting lists. Applications were no longer being accepted at the Park sites, but residents can call 311 for assistance.

The COD noted that they were currently working on a community outreach program using established neighborhood groups and would be receptive to any ideas that PRCS might have to promote this upcoming program. The community centers seemed to be a natural avenue for the COD to reach out to the community in ways such as COD participation at regular PRCS community center meetings, where appropriate.

Mr. Hurley noted that each community center had an advisory team that meets on a regular basis and the citizens are very engaged. He extended an invitation to the COD to attend any of the public meetings and welcomed the COD to present COD information at these meetings. He also noted the wonderful upgrades to various pack facilities around the City. He noted that the community centers held public meetings concerning community issues and occasionally city-wide issues arose i.e. safety or streets and the Mayor's night out on occasion. He offered to have the COD tour facility improvements, which are dramatic.

Mr. Hurley provided an update on the La Sierra Senior Center which will be complete in 2011 and serve about 100 seniors on a monthly basis. The COD requested that they be placed on the notification list concerning progress of this center and be given the opportunity to provide input on access issues concerning the elderly and disabled.

In response to a COD question concerning if there are specific resident disabled groups that PRCS provided programs for, Mr. Hurley noted that there were not currently, but there could be. Janet invited the COD to attend the Neighborhood Forum at the Bobby Bonds Complex which received input concerning new buildings in the area. The Neighborhood Forum meets the first Thursday each month at 6 pm in the community room. Hilda Ramirez could arrange for the COD to be added to the agenda. Attending established community group meetings would be a good form for the COD's community outreach programs. A partnership of this sort would be good for all involved.

7. Review and Comment: Community Outreach – Disabled Disaster Preparedness Pamphlet

The Disabled Disaster Preparedness Pamphlet was presented to the COD. Disabled Disaster Preparedness issues will be agenzized for discussion at the November 10, 2008 meeting.

8. Information: Utility Bill Mailing for October 2008 Postponed Until November 2008.

Chairperson Keller noted that even though most people open their utility bills and dispose of everything but the bill, the utility bill mailings still presented an opportunity to let residents know about the COD.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- A. RTA Quarterly ADA Committee Meeting, Monday, November 10 at the Bobby Bonds Park, Youth Opportunity Center at 9:30 am, 2060 University Avenue in Riverside, starting at 10 a.m.
- B. The Rover-Accessible Voting Equipment – at Community Access Center on October 22, 2008

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
- B. Governor’s Office of Emergency Services – Office for Access and Functional Needs

This discussion item will be agenzized for the November 10, 2008 meeting.

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
August 2008	45
September 2008	88

11. ADJOURNMENT:7:30 pm