

DRAFT MINUTES

DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, February 9, 2009, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
200 East Santa Clara Street, Room T-550
San Jose, California

Commissioners Present: Chair Otila Salazar-Torres, Commissioners Erik Kaeding, Paiman Komeilizadeh, Daniel Newell, Jackie O'Donnell, Susie Souza, and Chris Wright, Commissioners Emeritus Aaron Morrow and Karl Vidt

Commissioners Absent: Vice-Chair Emma Eljas, Commissioners Mary Brown and James Westman Commissioner Emeritus Susan Espinoza

Staff Present: S. Wing (ADA Coordinator), S. Holm (Office of Councilmember Pyle)

1. Call to Order/Orders of the Day & Agenda Approval

Upon the motion of Commissioner Kaeding, seconded by Commissioner O'Donnell, the Orders of the Day and Agenda were approved unanimously.

2. Approval of January 12, 2009 Minutes

Upon the motion of Commissioner Kaeding, seconded by Commissioner Komeilizadeh, the January 12, 2009 Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Open Forum

Commissioner Emeritus Morrow reported to the DAC that with the urging of Supervisor Ken Yeager, the County Board of Supervisors had approved providing \$141,000 to the Easter Seals Society for the continued operation of the Tympany Center. He suggested that the DAC Chair write a letter to Supervisor Yeager and the Board of Supervisors thanking them for their support of a facility that is much in need by people with disabilities.

4. Council Liaison Report

Ms. Holm reported that the VTA will be pursuing federal stimulus funds for various needs. She also confirmed that the District 10 disaster preparedness event is scheduled for April 25, 2009, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pioneer High School. Information about the PRNS Pricing and Revenue Project meeting series was provided by Ms. Holm and an informational flyer with dates and time was distributed.

5. Chairperson Report

Chairperson Salazar-Torres passed out information about Parents Helping Parents she obtained from a meeting with them.

Mrs. Salazar-Torres had Commissioner Newell give an overview of the issues he raised at the COW meeting about his concerns that the City's Work2Future program is not as accessible to people with disabilities as it should be. Mr. Wing will contact Work2future staff to obtain more information about their programs and Mr. Newell's questions and report back to the DAC at the next meeting.

6. Santa Clara County Advisory Commission for Persons With Disabilities Liaison Report

Commissioner Emeritus Morrow reported that the County commission is still having difficulties obtaining a quorum and is looking into the possibility of having members participate by telephone or computer. Research is being done as to whether this would be sufficient to meet Brown Act open meeting requirements.

7. Senior Commission Liaison Report

No report. Chair Salazar-Torres she said that the Council on Aging was interested in sharing information with the DAC and she will talk to them about attending a meeting in the future.

8. Discussion and recommendation of sending a letter to the Registrar of Voters concerning a voting accessibility problem during the last election.

Mr. Wing reported that Commissioner Emeritus Espinoza sent an email indicating that she had a more positive and responsive meeting with a representative of the Registrar's office and recommended that we delay writing a letter at this time.

9. Report on Inclusionary Housing

Commissioner Kaeding reported that he and Ms. Espinoza met with Housing staff and were informed that staff is preparing an ordinance for Council consideration sometime in May. He expressed disappointment that there will not be a provision for extremely low income housing. Housing staff also informed them about a project that will provide housing for people who are deaf. There was general discussion among commissioners about how to find affordable housing for people with disabilities.

10. Report on City Budget

Mr. Wing provided a brief report on the Mid-year budget reductions and that the City is working on a \$65 million deficit for FY 2009-2010. Upon the motion of Commissioner Kaeding, seconded by Commissioner O'Donnell, the DAC voted unanimously to send a letter to the City Manager recommending that the ADA Coordinator position should be maintained and that it should be filled with a person with significant experience with ADA issues.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Komeilizadeh, seconded by Commissioner Kaeding, the DAC voted unanimously to send a letter to the Mayor and City Council recommending that continued funding of the programs and services offered by the Office of Therapeutic Services and the Senior Nutrition program be a priority and maintained at current levels.

11. Report on Standing Commission Items

- a. **Emergency/Disaster Planning for Persons with Disabilities** – Mr. Wing reported that the annual one-day CADRE conference on emergency preparedness for vulnerable populations is scheduled for March 24, 2009 at the NASA/Ames Conference Center. The Mass Care and Shelter plan report completed in February was a success. A similar plan will be initiated at the County level. DAC partnership may be requested in the future for involvement.
- b. **“Strategic Plan, Services for Persons with Disabilities” Advisory Board** – Chair Salazar-Torres reported on the February 5, 2009 meeting of this board. Items discussed included the City budget and the next Disability Awareness Day has been set for Thursday, October 8, 2009. It was suggested that the Chair invite Lauri Yarwasky from OTS to provide a brief presentation to the DAC at the next meeting.
- c. **VTA and Paratransit Service Issues** – Mr. Morrow reported that the VTA is attempting to get all the advisory groups to work more closely together. The Transit Accessibility Committee is working on developing its Workplan.

12. **ADA Coordinator Report** –
Mr. Wing had nothing additional to report.

13. **Announcements** - There were no announcements

14. Agenda Development

- Work2future and employment issues for people with disabilities
- The annual Roundtable meeting was briefly discussed and it was decided to continue to schedule it for August.
- Potential mental disability issues

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.