

MINUTES

DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, March 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, Daniel Newell, Jackie O'Donnell, James Westman and Chris Wright, Commissioners Emeritus Susan Espinoza, Aaron Morrow and Karl Vidt

Commissioners Absent: Vice-Chair Emma Eljas, Commissioners Mary Brown, Paiman Komeilizadeh and Susie Sousa

Staff Present: S. Wing (ADA Coordinator), Stephanie Holm (Office of Councilmember Pyle), Mary O'Meara (PRNS), Lauri Yarwasky (PRNS)

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 February 9, 2009 Minutes

Upon the motion of Commissioner Kaeding, seconded by Commissioner Westman, the February 9, 2009 Minutes as presented were approved unanimously.

3. Open Forum

Mr. Wing introduced Nina Grayson, Director of Equality Assurance. Ms. Grayson has worked with Mr. Wing since he became the ADA Coordinator and will take over responsibility for providing staff support to the DAC after Mr. Wing retires at the end of this month. This assignment will continue until the City can hire someone to fill the ADA Coordinator position.

4. Council Liaison Report

Ms. Holm reported that the City Council had received the DAC's letter about the potential negative impacts the budget may have on people with disabilities. Ms. Holm also indicated that she would email the flyer for the District 10 emergency preparedness event to all DAC members.

5. Chairperson Report

Chairperson Salazar-Torres had Ms. Wright and Mr. Vidt report on the meetings sponsored by the City Clerk to obtain input from City commissioners on how to improve commissioner recruitment, training and the operation of boards and

commissions. Both felt that the meetings were worthwhile and that good information was shared.

Ms. Salazar-Torres, joined by Mr. Morrow, Mr. Vidt and Ms. Espinoza, recognized Mr. Wing for his efforts in carrying out the responsibilities of the ADA Coordinator, thanked him for providing support to the DAC and congratulated and wished him well on his retirement.

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

No report.

7. Senior Commission Liaison Report

No report. Mr. Wing reported that Mr. Layman intends to be the liaison from the Senior Commission, but illness has kept him attending recent DAC meetings.

8. Report on Inclusionary Housing

Commissioner Kaeding reported that he and Ms. Espinoza met with Jacky Morales-Ferrand, Assistant Director of Housing, concerning affordable housing for people with disabilities. He indicated that they had a positive meeting and Ms. Morales-Ferrand was enthusiastic about working more closely with the DAC in a number of areas, such as reviewing design standards and doing site visits to evaluate accessibility.

9. Report on PRNS Participant Code of Conduct Policy

Mary O'Meara from PRNS presented information on this draft policy and asked for input from the DAC. DAC members provided some input on how some of the proposed behaviors that could result in suspension from PRNS programs or facilities.

10. Report on Office of Therapeutic Services

Lauri Yarwasky from the Office of Therapeutic Services (OTS) provided an informative overview of OTS programs.

Ms. Salazar-Torres reported there was some general discussion at the DAC COW meeting about mental disabilities and it was determined that it would be a helpful starting point for the DAC to obtain a better understanding of the types of disabilities and conditions that were included. Since OTS and especially the Grace Community Center programs work directly with persons with different types of mental, developmental and cognitive disabilities, it was suggested that Lisa Blevins from Grace Community Center be invited to provide a presentation to the DAC at its next meeting.

11. Report on Work2future accessibility and services

Mr. Wing reported he met with Jeff Ruster, Director of W2F, and Chris Donnelly, Assistant Director of W2F to discuss the accessibility concerns raised by the DAC. Mr. Ruster said the W2F policy is to provide employment services to anyone who comes to W2F, but that some issues had been raised by several disability

organizations last year that W2F was not as accessible as it needed to be. This has led to two meetings with the disability agencies and the provision of disability awareness training by one of the agencies in January. Another training is scheduled for April. W2F also has initiated changes to its enrollment and assessment procedures to ensure that all potential clients receive the same services and increase the opportunities to work more directly with some of the agencies who provide employment services to people with disabilities.

The DAC acknowledged that these were positive steps, but would like to continue to have contact with W2F to monitor these efforts and would like Mr. Ruster and/or Mr. Donnelly to come to the next DAC meeting to provide more specific information on their programs and steps to ensure accessibility

12. Report on Standing Commission Items

- a. **Emergency/Disaster Planning for Persons with Disabilities** – Ms. Salazar-Torres reminded the DAC about the annual one-day CADRE conference on emergency preparedness for vulnerable populations that is scheduled for March 24, 2009 at the NASA/Ames Conference Center. Ms. Salazar-Torres, Ms. Espinoza and Mr. Wing will be participating in one of the workshops. The final San Jose Mass Care and Shelter Annex will be available at the conference. A similar plan is being 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 the Disability Awareness Day planning committee will be meeting this Thursday, 3/12.
- c. **VTA and Paratransit Service Issues** – Mr. Morrow reported the VTA is seeking help from all sources on how to address significant budget deficits. Ms. Holm indicated that District 10 is working with VTA to reroute some bus lines to make them more accessible.

13. ADA Coordinator Report –

Mr. Wing had nothing additional to report.

14. Announcements - There were no announcements

15. Agenda Development

- Request Work2future to do presentation at the April DAC meeting.
- Invite Lisa Blevins from Grace Community Center to the next DAC meeting to provide information on their program and the needs and issues of their clients.
- Invite Housing Department to a future DAC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.