

DRAFT MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

5th ANNUAL ROUND TABLE WITH THE CITY COUNCIL
JOINT MEETING WITH THE STRATEGIC PLAN ADVISORY BOARD (SPAB)
“Strategic Plan, Services for People with Disabilities” –
Therapeutic Services, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Monday, September 14, 2009, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
200 East Santa Clara Street, Room W-118-119
San Jose, California

Commissioners Present: Chair Salazar-Torres, Vice-Chair O’Donnell, Commissioners Kaeding, Souza, Westman, Komeilizadeh, Newell, Robinson Souza, and Wright; Commissioner Emeritus Vidt, Morrow, and Eljas

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Emeritus Espinoza

Mayor and Council Present

Mayor Reed, Councilmember Pyle (DAC Council Liaison), Councilmember Constant (SPAB Member), Councilmember Chu, Councilmember Kalra, and Councilmember Herrera

Staff Present: S. Holm (Office of Councilmember Pyle), E. Ewing (ADA Coordinator), N. Grayson (Office of Equality Assurance), L. Yarwasky (PRNS)

1. Call to Order

Chair Salazar-Torres called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

2. Orders of the Day & Agenda Approval

Upon the motion of Commissioner Kaeding, seconded by Vice-Chair O’Donnell, the Orders of the Day and Agenda were approved unanimously.

3. Welcome and Introductions – Chairperson Otila Salazar-Torres, Mayor Chuck Reed, Councilmember Nancy Pyle and Councilmember Pete Constant

Mayor Reed and Councilmembers Pyle, Constant, and Chu, provided welcoming remarks. Councilmember Pyle stated that she would be supporting the Santa Clara County Committee for the Employment of the Disabled with an HP grant. Councilmember Constant expressed his appreciation for the collaboration between the DAC and the Office of Therapeutic Services and hopes to see the Disability

Awareness Day, to be held on October 8th, become a city-wide event rather than a two-commission event.

Each member of the DAC commission introduced themselves to the Mayor and Councilmembers and gave a brief statement of their backgrounds.

4. Overview of DAC 2009–2010 Work Plan - Chairperson Salazar-Torres

Chair Salazar-Torres and Commissioner Emeritus Vidt, and Commissioners Kaeding, and Morrow presented an overview of the DAC 2009-2010 Workplan.

Commissioner Emeritus Vidt provided an update to the street crowning issue.

Commissioner Morrow discussed the Commission's concerns regarding the proposed VTA bus fare increase and bus route cuts.

Katie Heatly from Outreach Paratransit Service stated that the fare changes would take effect on October 1, 2009, with little impact to service at that time. The base paratransit fare will be increased from \$3.50 to 4.00. All premiums fares will be a flat \$16.00. Proposed cuts to the fixed route services are still being discussed and will take effect in January 2010. The City of San Jose will need to get any concerns it has regarding the impact these route changes will have on the disabled to the VTA by October 1st.

Chair Salazar-Torres welcomed Councilmember Herrera to the meeting. Councilmember Herrera provided welcoming remarks.

Commissioner Kaeding provided an update to his meetings with the City's Housing Department. During 2009, they passed a resolution regarding inclusionary housing, which the Council is considering now. Two concerns the DAC has regarding the ordinance is; one that too many in-lieu of options may defeat the goal of inclusion, and two the City needs to do more to address the needs of the low and very low-income categories, which this ordinance may not do.

Chair Salazar-Torres provided an update to the Emergency Shelter Plan for the Vulnerable Population.

5. Presentation by Commissioner Newell on Employment of People with Disabilities, City of San Jose Proclamation for Persons with Disabilities, and the Unison in Industries Conference

Commissioner Newell gave a presentation regarding the employment of people with disabilities. The presentation focused on the higher percentage of people with disabilities that are unemployed than in the general population, and the reasons why a greater number of disabled people are not looking for work. Councilmember Pyle has endorsed and will be attending the Unison in Industries Conference, which will be held in Palo Alto on November 12, 2009.

6. Progress Report on “Strategic Plan, Services for People with Disabilities” – Therapeutic Supervisor, Lauri Yarwasky from the Office of Therapeutic Services

Lauri Yarwasky, Therapeutic Supervisor from the Office of Therapeutic Services (OTS), provided a presentation and update on the “Strategic Plan, Services for People with Disabilities.” The plan includes seven strategies for the provision of therapeutic recreation programs. The presentation also focused on the different types of recreation programs OTS provides. Participation in the programs has increased by 20% this year. Currently, OTS does not access Districts 2, 7, and 8; however, people from everywhere can participate in the programs.

7. Open Forum

Chair Salazar-Torres reminded the Councilmembers of the 2nd Annual Disability Awareness Day on October 8, 2009.

Councilmember Constant, Pyle, Herrera commended OTS on the positive impact it has on the community and thanked the DAC and OTS for its excellent work. Councilmember Chu will have his staff work with L. Yarwasky in helping to facilitate one of OTS’ programs.

Sarah Triano, Executive Director of the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, would welcome the opportunity to make a presentation to the Commission.

8. Announcements

None

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.