Tempe

Commission on Disability Concerns
Meeting Minutes January 15, 2008

7:00 p.m.
Tempe Public Library,
3500 So. Rural Road, Tempe AZ

(MEMBERS) Present:
Chair Janie Shelton, Co Vice-Chair Darrell Shandrow, Aaron Edgell, Cyndi Newburn, Matthew Jellison, Larry Randall, Jacque Olsen, Paul Bennewitz, Frank Emery

(MEMBERS) Absent:
Co Vice-Chair Mason Murphy, Nora Nuñez, Linda Bergevin, Tom Ringhofer

Staff Present:
Karl Stephens, ADA Compliance Specialist

Guests present:
Ms. Jyme Sue McLaren, City of Tempe, Deputy Public Works Manager, Light Rail Project Manager; Ms. Dawn Coomer, City of Tempe Senior Transportation Planner

Meeting convened at 7:08 p.m., Chair Janie Shelton called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:
***Correction to November 20, 2007 minutes that Commissioner Frank Emery had attempted several times unsuccessfully to call into the conference call function.* Commissioner Larry Randall moved that the corrected minutes from the November 20, 2007 meeting be approved; Commissioner Paul Bennewitz, seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes from the Mayor's Awards Committee meetings on December 6, 2007 and the January 3, 2008 were voted on after Commissioner Bennewitz moved and Commissioner Jellison seconded each motion. Both motions were approved unanimously with no changes.

Public Appearances:
Mr. Paul Bennewitz Sr., Tempe resident and advocate for people with developmental disabilities addressed the Commission about his serious concern regarding the long length of time it has taken to complete the Vial of Life (Vial) project and his questioning whether City officials are really committed to seeing that a viable community program is ultimately forthcoming. He expressed great concern that the Vial project would not provide the needed information to First Responders (FR) that a Vial participant was in need of emergency services if no computer database system was used to identify Vial participants when services were dispatched and if no training was made available regarding the purpose and nature of the program. Mr. Bennewitz felt that the information is useless in someone's refrigerator unless FRs know that it is there in advance of the call for assistance. With some discussion between Commission members and Mr. Bennewitz, there appeared to be differences in

opinions about the level of commitment previously expressed by City of Tempe public officials discussing the point about database capacity and the ability to easily utilize the information to assist citizens as intended, as well as the commitment to provide training to FRs.

1. Presentation by the City of Tempe Light Rail Project Staff

- An excellent, informative Power Point presentation by Ms. McLaren was provided, along with individual hard copies of all of the slides. She apologized that she had not attached the same materials electronically to be sent out to the Commissioners prior to the meeting. She said that she would forward the presentation to Karl Stephens for dispersing to the Commission members. The presentation ran well over the allotted time because of the great interest by the Commissioners. Some reports will certainly be skipped because of the lack of time.

2. Dial-A-Ride Update – Darrell Shandrow

- Commissioner Shandrow expressed that he did not have a formal update regarding Dial-A-Ride, although he was asked by others about his personal situation, as well as his wife's, so some discussion was generated regarding the Tempe Dial-A-Ride in particular and the system in general throughout the valley. A considerable amount of time was spent discussing various aspects of the Dial-A-Ride system. Karl Stephens suggested that he will be glad to contact the City of Tempe Transportation Unit to get more information about how the system is supposed to work and to re-enforce how very vital this system is and underscore the problems created for people with disabilities when the system is not operating efficiently. **** Correction to January 15 minutes: *Noted that the Light Rail Program Manager offered a ride in November to interested Commissioners.***

3. Vial of Life – Larry Randall

- Commissioner Larry Randall did not have a specific update but Karl Stephens did present that he had met with Ms. Tracy Scott, St. Lukes Hospital Marketing Director, on January 10 to discuss the project and get it back on track. The discussion centered on the forms and how to provide more space by eliminating some unneeded data fields, i.e., since the Emergency personnel are already at the individual's home, having their home address on the form in the Vial isn't really needed. There were other areas where some additional space was much needed for adding the Spanish translations and for potentially large amounts of information blocks such as medications and previous surgeries. Ms. Scott will e-mail the 'proof' form back to Karl Stephens for comment and to be forwarded to Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Dept. Manager for the Spanish language translations.

**** Correction to January 15 minutes: *Due to time constraints, no further reports were possible this evening.***

4. Report from the Child-Ability Committee – Linda Bergevin

- No report

5. Report from the Committee on Architectural Accessibility – Tom Ringhofer

- No report

6. Parks and Recreation Committee Update -

- No report.

7. Mayor's Awards Committee Update – Paul Bennewitz

- No report.

8. Tempe Rental Housing Concerns – Aaron Edgell

- No report.

9. Diversity/ADA Office Update

Staff Liaison Karl Stephens made the following announcements:

- The Mayor's Awards Committee is asking all Commissioners to submit nominations for potential community awards recipients by March 28 for consideration at the Mayor's Awards Committee meeting on April 3, 2008.

Topics for Future Meetings:

- Jim Maldonado of Development Services Dept. to discuss his Department's role in the Tempe City Government.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM

Prepared by: Karl Stephens

_____*Karl W. Stephens*_____
Staff Liaison, ADA Compliance Specialist