Tempe

AGENDA ITEM 4

DATE 10-16-08

Commission on Disability Concerns
Meeting Minutes October 2, 2008

6:30 p.m.
Board Room
Tempe Public Library,
3500 So. Rural Road, Tempe AZ

No Quorum Present
No Official Business Conducted

(MEMBERS) Present:
Chair Mason Murphy, Paul Bennewitz, José De La Torre, Cyndi Newburn, Matthew Jellison,

(MEMBERS) Absent:
Co Vice-Chair Nora Nuñez, Co Vice-Chair Robert Kizere, Jacque Olsen, Frank Emery, Janie Shelton, Linda Bergevin, Aaron Edgell, Darrell Shandrow

Staff Present:
Karl Stephens, ADA Compliance Specialist

Guests present:
Mark Vinson, Principal Architect, COT; Lisa Procknow, Public Involvement Specialist, Metro Light Rail.

Meeting convened at 6:40 p.m., Chair Mason Murphy called the meeting to order.

Public Appearances:
None

Presentation By Mark Vinson regarding: Elements' Artist's Village Project at Tempe Center for the Arts. Mr. Vinson presented information about this project, which he prefaced by saying that "it is in the early conceptual phase at this time," but that the (City) Council wanted this Commission to be involved very early to give continuing input into what is being described as an Artist's Village that will bring 4 local companies into a plot of ground directly west of the Tempe Center for the Arts parking lot, an extension of the Rio Salado boardwalk to the north and the parkway to the south. Mr. Vinson said that the intention is to have these companies produce art in this area, where the public can see artist's work in progress. Mr. Vinson presented a conceptual drawing of these 4 company sites, each in a quadrant with the community driveway entering the center of the property north from Rio Salado Parkway on Hardy Drive and into a central, circular drive, turning either east or west and into the individual company parking area. The companies that are planned to join this project are Arizona Bronze Atelier, Childs Play,

Roberto Venn, and Meltdown Glass.

Commissioner Newburn expressed concern about the use of this very important parcel of City land being used in this manner, which she described as an "industrial site," pointing out that these companies' produce toxic wastes, in addition to art work. She posed that perhaps this site is not best suited to be an industrial production site; that perhaps this is not a "done deal," as Mr. Vinson had presented and that a lot more work needs to be done to understand this project and the need for this particular site. There was really not much information to sway listeners that essentially giving this land way doesn't really benefit the City of Tempe.

Staff told to Mr. Vinson that the numerous concerns about continuing ADA issues related to the Tempe Center for the Arts and the difficult time that the City was having in resolving those concerns some one year later, make it very important that the ADA Specialist and the Commission be very involved at every stage of this project to insure compliance.

Presentation by Lisa Procknow, Public Involvement Specialist, Metro Light Rail: Ms. Procknow provided a slide show presentation of the basic layout of the light rail project, with details about the station and railcar accessibility features, as well as basic safety features of the project. Also in attendance was her supervisor, Howard Steere, Manager of the Public Involvement program. While this presentation was helpful, many questions remain about how well the accessibility features will really work on the ground. Staff asked Mr. Steere whether the pedestrian crosswalks on adjacent streets to the Light Rail stations will have audible crosswalk alerts for the blind community. After a somewhat convoluted and lengthy explanation, the ultimate answer was "no," funds had not been available for this 'initial' phase of construction, but that subsequent expansions would have the funding for such audible crosswalk alerts. This was definitely not the answer that the Commissioners wanted to hear.

Ms. Procknow will notify the Commission of upcoming opportunities in the next 2 months to give input into the accessibility of the actual vehicles and the stations when local citizens with disabilities will have a hands-on day at some various community locations.

Diversity/ADA Office Update

Staff Liaison presented several ADA complaint issues as examples of current community concerns. Information shared with Commissioners about the various City groups working diligently to look at a variety of ways to save money, downsize the organization and accomplish the work. A question was posed about 'who our Councilmember is that works with us.' Staff shared that he is unaware that this is something that other Boards/Commissions are provided but that an answer would be forthcoming.

Topics for Future Meetings:

- Amy Rocker, Navigator, AZ One-Stop Center (Employment Services), Gilbert, AZ
- SMARTCARD update from City of Scottsdale

Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.

Prepared by: Karl Stephens

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