

Commission on Disability Concerns Meeting Minutes May 7, 2009

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

(MEMBERS) Present:

Chair Mason Murphy, Co Vice-Chair Nora Nuñez, Jacque Olsen, Chelsea Chamberlain, Cyndi Newburn, Frank Emery, Aaron Edgell, Janie Shelton

(MEMBERS) Excused Absence (notification):

Liz Perez, Co Vice-Chair Robert Kizere, José De la Torre

(MEMBERS) Unexcused Absence (no notification):

Darrell Shandrow, Linda Bergevin

Staff Present:

Karl Stephens, ADA Compliance Specialist

Guests present:

None

Meeting officially called to order by Chair Mason Murphy at 6:30 p.m.

Public Appearances:

Visitor Ed Mitchell – Mr. Mitchell gave Commissioners a short summary of his recent visit with City Attorney Andrew Ching regarding his proposal to change the Tempe City Code to adopt a more stringent penalty for illegal parking in an accessible, disabled parking space in Tempe. This would provide higher fines and a more complete definition of the offense(s) to include the blocking of the access aisle adjacent to the parking space, as well as blocking of the accompanying curb cut, or any other such curb cut to access a sidewalk. Mr. Ching did voice his support for using the model changes that the City of Phoenix has made to their ordinance, as presented by Mr. Mitchell, who has also now visited with most of the Tempe City Council members and the Mayor to lobby for their support, which he has received. He hopes to have these changes in place before the end of the calendar year, which will significantly raise the fines and use the money left after all of the surcharges are dispersed to help fund the ADA Compliance Specialist job as a full-time position.

1. Consideration of Meeting Minutes: 2/5/09 Draft Commission minutes; 11/20/08, 2/19/09 and 3/19/09 Draft Architectural Compliance Committee minutes; 2/18/09 and 3/18/09 Draft Awards Committee minutes.

Motion made by Commissioner Nuñez to approve all minutes in one vote; seconded by Commissioner Shelton; approved by unanimous vote.

2. Nominate officers for the next year. The election will take place next month, June 4, 2009, with the new officers taking over in the July 2, 2009 meeting.

Commissioner Murphy opened the nominations for officers for the 2009/2010 meeting year. Nominations are as follows:

Chair: José De la Torre and Robert Kizere

Co-Vice Chair (2): José De la Torre (if not elected Chair), Aaron Edgell, Jacque Olsen

3. Discussion of how to best increase Commission meeting attendance / participation, including enforcing the rule of not missing more than 3 meetings in any 6 month period of time.

Significant discussion of how best to increase participation of Commission members, with the majority of the discussion related to the need for the Commission to enforce existing City policy that says that any Board or Commission member that misses 3 consecutive meetings or 3 meetings in a 6 month period is considered to have resigned from the Commission. Discussion of what is considered an excused absence, with final general agreement that asking to be excused in advance from a particular meeting is all that is really expected. Also, significant discussion about having a great desire to participate but being unable to change a particular schedule, such as Thursday night college classes for many weeks (months). Majority opinion expressed was that the individual needs to resign, in such a case, and re-apply to the Commission when personal circumstances permit appropriate participation.

4. Discuss June 4 meeting topic of "Brainstorm what and how to re-energize the work that the Commission accomplishes."

Staff expressed concern that Tempe Learning Center had declined a request to assist with facilitating the brainstorming session during June 4 Commission meeting. The response from the TLC Manager is that they would not be able to facilitate but would provide facilitation training to the Staff. After some discussion, Staff agreed to act as facilitator during the June meeting, as long as each Commissioner come prepared to give top 3 personal choices of priorities for the Commission to pursue during the next 12 months.

5. Report from the Committee on Architectural Accessibility – Jacque Olsen

Commissioner Olsen provided update on the previous Committee meeting with

Tempe Deputy Development Services Manager Michael Williams and the information he shared with the participants about what his staff will be able to provide regarding architectural compliance concerns in the community, as well as a flowchart to help determine the validity and resolution of architectural accessibility complaints.

The committee has just sent a recent complaint through this process regarding accessibility issues at the Tempe Marketplace. The expectation is that this will aide the Commission and the City with a process that documents the problems well and provides an official method of tracking resolutions.

6. Tempe Rental Housing Concerns – Aaron Edgell

No report. There was some discussion of whether the Commission may want to have representatives attend Council Committee meetings as they have in the past. It may be very helpful to both groups to have Commissioners with disabilities actively participating on issues such as Housing or Transportation whenever they possible.

7. Dial a Ride Update – Darrell Shandrow

There was no official report although Staff did report that Greg Jordan, City of Tempe Transit Administrator or his staff will be presenting on June 4 regarding some proposed changes to the Dial-A-Ride (DAR) program. Slowly but surely it appears that DAR is moving to embrace a Regional scope, which could certainly make things easier for riders if they did not have to physically change vans whenever they crossed a municipal border.

8. Vial of Life Update –

Staff reported that a recent meeting with the new Tempe St. Luke's Hospital Marketing Director Elizabeth Krecker and Tempe Fire Chief Cliff Jones was a very positive step to finally see some progress in getting the funding and support needed to deliver much needed vials to community members. Ms. Krecker and the Chief came to agree that the Vial-of-Life program should remain the program of choice in Tempe. Subsequent to this meeting, Ms. Krecker was able to report that Tempe St. Luke's management agreed to support the partnership, as well as to bring in community partner PMT Ambulance as well. Ms. Krecker has already set some plans in motion to negotiate a much more reasonable cost for all parties and we should see some progress in the next month.

Information was also shared with the Commission regarding the Lockbox program that was proposed by the Tempe Community Council in recent months. It is anticipated that this program will be introduced officially to the Tempe City Council soon as a good partner program for Vial-of-Life. This program will provide a free lockbox to community participants paid for by the Realtors Association. The code for the individual locks reside with the Fire Department staff, enabling them to access the lockbox and use the key inside to enter a participating property when a medical emergency happens, without the need to damage windows or doors to get in. A number of local communities have embraced this program with excellent results.

9. Mayor's Awards Committee Update – Janie Shelton

Commissioner Shelton gave a glowing review of the event that took place on April 30 at the Pyle Adult Center. Based upon the number of chairs and the number standing during the event, we certainly had more than 150 people in attendance. It was a fun, positive event with an outstanding key note speaker, Mr. Randall Howe. His message was one of inspiration to the students with disabilities who were graduating from high school, that with hard work that they would be able to succeed in a worthwhile career, in spite of their disability.

Commissioner Shelton and staff reminded those in attendance that only two current Commissioners had attended the event, while more previous Commissioners, as well as all of the City Council members and Mayor had attended. This poor showing by the current Commissioners was quite disappointing.

10. Report from the Child-Ability Committee - Linda Bergevin
No report

11. Parks and Recreation Committee Update – Frank Emery
No report

Diversity/ADA Office Updates – Karl Stephens

- Kudos to Mr. Ed Mitchell for all of his independent energy and leadership in the community on behalf of a number of disability issues that will make life much better for everyone struggling with trying to make life safer and more accessible for their families and friends. His efforts are much appreciated.

Topics for Future Meetings: June 4, 2009 – Greg Jordan, City of Tempe Transit Administrator: re: Changes to Dial-A-Ride Program; Kathy Berzins, Acting Community Services Manager: Accessibility of renovated Historic Museum and the renovated Tempe Library

Prepared by: Karl Stephens

 Karl W. Stephens
Staff Liaison, ADA Compliance Specialist

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