
Commission on Disability Concerns Meeting Minutes July 2, 2009

Commission on Disability Concerns Thursday, July 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Tempe City Hall, 2nd Floor Meeting Room 31 E. Fifth St., Tempe, AZ 85281

(MEMBERS) Present:

Chair Robert Kizere, José De la Torre, Chelsea Chamberlain, Janie Shelton, Nora Nuñez, Frank Emery

(MEMBERS) Excused Absence (notification):

Jacque Olsen, Aaron Edgell, Liz Perez, Cyndi Newburn, Mason Murphy

(MEMBERS) Unexcused Absence (no notification):

Staff Present:

Karl Stephens, ADA Compliance Specialist

Visitors present:

Dr. Mary Greer, Asst. Prof. of Occupational Therapy from A.T. Still University, Arizona School of Health Sciences and 9 students from her Masters Class, OTR/L, Mesa, AZ

Meeting officially called to order by Chair Robert Kizere at 7:38 p.m.

Meeting was delayed because the available Commissioners and visitors had all attended the City Council Issue Review Session that was due to start at 6:00 p.m. The visitors had attended to learn more about the local workings of the City Council while the attending Commissioners were present to show support for the proposed City Code changes to the parking fine charges for disabled parking violations, as well as associated language changes regarding blocking accessible spaces, access aisles and curb cuts. Ultimately the relevant presentation by the City Council did not end until 7:20 p.m.

1. Consideration of Meeting Minutes: 6/4/09 Draft Commission minutes, 1st De la Torre, 2nd Shelton; 5/21/09 Draft Architectural Compliance Committee minutes, 1st Shelton, 2nd De la Torre; 4/15/09 Draft Awards Committee Minutes, 1st Emery, 2nd Nuñez. All unanimous votes.

2. Update of the proposed changes to the City of Tempe Code re: accessible parking fines and related language changes. This was an opportunity to share information with the visitors as some background on the issues that they had seen discussed by the Mayor and Council at the earlier Issue Review Session. With some background presented about Mr. Ed Mitchell's advocacy on this issue and how much time and energy went into his efforts to change the system, the visitors certainly left with a clearer idea of how involved this grass roots effort had become.

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

There was a minimal amount of discussion on this subject since time was short and so many Commissioners were absent. The hope is that the August meeting will present the time and participation to discuss the results of the brainstorming efforts and what the next steps should be with the entire group's input.

4. Report from the Committee on Architectural Accessibility – José De la Torre

The Committee report focused on discussion of the newest complaint forwarded to the City of Tempe Development Services Dept. (Mike Williams) regarding the lack of accessible pathways and other concerns at the Fry's Market location of Mill and Southern. There was also discussion re: the Draft Mission Statement for the Committee. Staff expressed concerns with the content that the public may become confused about the document's focus on complaint resolution language and the concern that the City already has a Department of Justice approved complaint resolution program in place. Staff suggested that the Committee relook at the 'Draft' document language with that concern in mind.

5. Tempe Rental Housing Concerns – Aaron Edgell

6. Dial a Ride Update – Darrell Shandrow

7. Vial of Life Update –

8. Mayor's Awards Committee Update – Janie Shelton

9. Report from the Child-Ability Committee -

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

Diversity/ADA Office Updates – Karl Stephens

There was some discussion of forming a Committee to work with the Diversity and other City Depts. to plan an October Disability (Awareness, Appreciation, etc.) Day for the public. Staff will work to find several Commissioners interested in this group.

The Commission voted to table all other Committee reports for this meeting. Motion to end the meeting by Mr. Emery; seconded by Ms. Nuñez, unanimous vote, 8:30 p.m.

Topics for Future Meetings: August 6, 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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