

Commission on Disability Concerns

Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Tempe Library, 2nd Floor Board Room

3500 S. Rural Rd.

Minutes

Public Appearances: The Commission on Disability Concerns welcomes public comment at this time only for items listed on this agenda. There is a *three-minute time limit* per citizen.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Chair Robert Kizere, Cyndi Newburn, Frank Emery, Ed Mitchell, Kristoffer Kiefer, Jacque Olsen, Linda Kurth, Armando Faustini Jr., Nora Nuñez

(MEMBERS) Excused Absence (notification):

Co Vice-Chair José De la Torre, Co Vice-Chair Aaron Edgell, Kay Butler, Chelsea Chamberlain, Liz Perez, Martha Ashburn

(MEMBERS) Unexcused Absence (no notification):

None

Staff Present:

Karl Stephens, ADA Compliance Specialist

Visitors present:

Greg Jordan, City of Tempe Transit Administrator; Scott Wisner, Valley Metro/RPTA; Becky Johnson, Valley Metro/RPTA

Meeting officially called to order by Chair Robert Kizere at 6:32 p.m.

Public Appearances:

None

1. Consideration of Meeting Minutes: 10/01/09 Draft Commission Minutes, *moved Kris Kiefer, seconded Cyndi Newburn, unanimous vote.* 9/17/09 Draft Architectural Compliance Committee minutes, *moved Jacque Olsen, seconded Linda Kurth, unanimous vote.*
2. Welcome to newly appointed Commission member: *Mr. Armando Faustini Jr., who introduced himself as a Tempe resident with a disability who is happy to serve on the Commission. He is an ASU graduate, currently seeking employment. He was recommended for the Commission by José De la Torre.*
3. Update on Dial-A-Ride: Presentation by City of Tempe Transit Representative re: changes in the Dial-A-Ride system in the next year. *After a short introduction by Greg Jordan, Mr. Wisner and Ms. Johnson introduced themselves. Mr. Wisner, Customer Service Manager for Valley Metro, presented the bulk of the information regarding the new proposed ADA Bus/Rail Pass and ADA Eligibility Program*

Update for Dial-A-Ride. The intention of the new program is to provide an opportunity for ADA Dial-A-Ride (DAR) users to retain their eligibility for a longer period of time (3-5 yrs/ or lifetime) depending upon their circumstances, rather than the current 3 year renewal. A major change is that the interview process for eligibility will be 'in person' rather than by mail & fax. The intention of this change is to provide better customer service and understanding of how the person's disability(ies) affect their transit ridership capabilities. Valley Metro looks on this new evaluation system as a way to introduce and encourage more ADA DAR riders to use both bus and light rail systems whenever possible, helping to relieve the strain on the beleaguered DAR system. The intent is also to better answer questions and concerns for users, in addition to having a face-to-face assessment of transit skills and barriers. Mr. Wisner said several times that this meeting is not to determine disability status but to help assess transit skills. The hope is that the new evaluations would be tested and put in place by July 2010. It was suggested that Valley Metro return in April 2010 to give the Commission an update. Most questions/concerns from Commissioners focused on the actual need for in person eligibility meetings in one central location in the metro area, taking considerable time and energy for ADA eligibility applicants to travel. Other concerns included the need for this evaluation at all, much less on a repetitive basis every few years.

4. Architectural Compliance Committee Update – Next meeting – November 19, 2009, Discussion of additional information available for Commissioners re: the work of the Committee and information about the ADA and disability related materials. *The handout from Mr. De la Torre was given to each Commissioner, describing some of the ADA standards and disability related language used within the context of disability rights and procedures.*
5. Life Safety program updates – Vial of Life, Lockbox and Project Lifesaver. *Update on the Vial-of-Life included info. that the final steps of agreeing on the graphics for the vials had occurred and that the vials should be produced in the next several weeks. Lockboxes have also been received and this process is nearing completion with City of Tempe Fire and Realtors Assn., with Diversity Dept. taking the lead initially to distribute the lockboxes and Fire actually meeting with residents and assigning the codes. Both programs will be promoted through the COT Community Relations staff and Tempe St. Luke's Hospital.*
6. Update of the proposed changes to the City of Tempe Code- re: accessible parking fines and related language changes. Also update on other related activities. *Update by Mr. Mitchell that the Tempe parking code changes have gone into effect, as of October 10, 2009. COT Police Dept. officials are supportive and are assisting with a move to make these changes statewide by revising the Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) 28-884 which would make it much easier for other jurisdictions to update their processes to write citations and actually assist the disability community. Mr. Mitchell is working with a number of community members to draft legislation and gain support for this statewide effort.*
7. Commission on Disability Concerns – Update on the City of Tempe ID cards. *Chair Robert Kizere showed his new City of Tempe photo ID card issued by the COT Human Resources office at 20 E. 6th St. Commissioners can get theirs by going to the office on Mon. & Thurs. each week from 7:30 – 4:30 and are encouraged to do so by the City.*
8. Discussion of October Disability Awareness Month activities. *Staff suggested to the Commissioners that they consider using the October Disability Awareness Month activities on a long term planning committee to start looking forward to 2010, which*

will also be the focus for a variety of activities leading up to the 20th anniversary of the ADA on July 26, 2010. Planning in the disability community is already looking for opportunities to piggyback off of existing events with more disability focus.

9. Tempe Housing Concerns – Staff will attend monthly Council Housing Committee meetings on behalf of all Tempe residents with disabilities. *No date has been decided upon for the Affordable/Transitional Housing forum, which was mentioned as a meeting that the Housing Committee had suggested that ADA staff attend for input regarding accessibility concerns and visitability as an evolving issue.*

10. Emerging issues / projects – Staff: Special Events- Preliminary discussion of numbers of accessible portable toilets. *Staff will set-up meeting with Supervisor of Special Events staff to discuss changes to ADA page of Special Events handbook that will increase standards for ADA portable toilets at outdoor events in Tempe from 5% to 10% at each grouping of toilets used, with the first toilet placed always ADA accessible. Other issues, such as parking, signage and accessible routes to be discussed as well.* Discussion of local emergency planning for people with disabilities. Renovation of City Hall, History Museum, & Public Library. *Staff is working on all of these projects to assure ADA compliance.*

Diversity/ADA Office Updates: Staff

Topics for Future Meetings: Add new information regarding future topics.

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