AGENDA ITEM 8
DATE 3-5-09

Tempe

Commission on Disability Concerns
Meeting Minutes November 6, 2008

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

(MEMBERS) Present:
Co Vice-Chair Nora Nuñez, Jacque Olsen, Tyler Allen, Aaron Edgell, Linda Bergevin, José De la Torre, Cyndi Newburn, Matthew Jellison

(MEMBERS) Absent:
Chair Mason Murphy, Co Vice-Chair Robert Kizere, Frank Emery, Janie Shelton, Darrell Shandrow, Chelsea Chamberlain

Staff Present:
Karl Stephens, ADA Compliance Specialist

Guests present:
Amy Rocker

Meeting convened at 6:35 p.m., Co Vice-Chair Nora Nuñez called the meeting to order.

Public Appearances:
None

1. Consideration of Meeting Minutes: **9/4/08 Draft Commission minutes;** moved, Cyndi Newburn, seconded Matthew Jellison, unanimous approval without changes. **9/17/08 Draft Mayor's Awards Committee minutes;** moved, Matthew Jellison, seconded Cyndi Newburn, unanimous approval without changes. **10/16/08 Draft Architectural Compliance Committee minutes;** moved Matthew Jellison, seconded José De la Torre, unanimous approval without changes. **10/15/08 Draft Award's Committee minutes;** wait until reviewed by Committee.

2. Presentation by Amy Rocker, Gilbert One Stop Center Navigator, AZ DES, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Ms. Rocker presented information about her job as, primarily, a disability advocate within the State and County programs presented at each of the One Stop Centers that provide employment related services to all residents in need. These centers also provide services to local employers, helping to match prospective employees to current vacancies in virtually all fields of work. Often people with disabilities have had a difficult time competing for these vacancies and several years ago the State funded the Navigator positions to assist with all job readiness skills, including classes on

resume writing, interviewing practice, dress for success, etc. Ms. Rocker emphasized that everyone is able to participate in these free programs and skill building classes, including people with disabilities who want to go to work. She enjoys her challenging job, working with many different groups of people to help everyone succeed.

3. Tempe Rental Housing – Aaron Edgell

- No official report, but Commissioner Edgell did ask the others to consider the difficulty of finding affordable accessible rentals, especially in single family homes. Often these mostly older homes have little or no accessible features and require a great deal of money to provide even the most basic of ramps and wider doorways. Notifying everyone to be on the lookout for information about community grants for these types of modifications is a first step. Staff gave some input that the accessibility grants that Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL) uses to help homeowners with modifications are also available in Tempe, and that the contact information would be sent to the Commissioners soon.

4. Architectural Compliance Committee - Matthew Jellison

- Commissioner Jellison reported that he had recently asked staff for information related to the work of this Committee. Information was recently forwarded some 'historic information' to the Committee members related to the 'Mission' of this group, at least by some previous participants. Information was also forwarded related to the current status of the Broadway Apartments and the access concerns for that property.

5. Dial-A-Ride Update – Darrell Shandrow

- No Report

6. Vial of Life Update – Staff

- Report updated the Commission that the revisions for the updated Vial of Life information is essentially complete. The stumbling block at this point is the current freeze with City funding to purchase the new Vials and the need to approach the community for funding. Staff reported that City officials are approaching community service groups for assistance.

7. Mayor's Awards Committee Update – Staff

- Staff update that the keynote speaker for the April 29, 2009 event will be Mr. Randall Howe, who has had a very commendable 20+ year career as a Supervising Attorney with the Arizona Attorney General's Office and has recently moved on to the U.S. Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona. He has been involved with the local disability community since 1988 and will be a great role model for the students receiving awards at this next event.

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

- No official report, although Commissioner Bergevin did give short history of the work of this Committee and what the intention of the community survey is about, related to providing more and better information about community resources available for parents of children with disabilities. The local Tempe school districts have expressed their willingness to participate with this survey process.

9. Parks and Recreation Committee Update – Frank Emery

- No Report.

Diversity/ADA Office Update

- Staff Liaison presented information that the ADA position, along with many other City positions, is being considered for elimination or restructuring, based upon the need to

save funding equal to some 100 positions. Commission will be contacted for support of position funding if it looks like it is to be cut.

Topics for Future Meetings:

- Agenda item to discuss the need for a mission statement and needs assessment for the Architectural Compliance Committee.
- Agenda item to discuss the need for 'free internet' in City of Tempe and what that might really mean. Accessibility concerns?

Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.

Prepared by: Karl Stephens

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