

UNAPPROVED
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
MEETING MINUTES OF
Monday, October 27, 2014 6:30 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

Present: Chair Harp, Vice-Chair Wilkinson, Commissioners Deutsche, Franco, Kenny, Lord-Hausman, Fort and Warren.

Absent: Commissioner Tam

2. MINUTES

- 2-A. The minutes for the June 23, 2014 meeting were approved with changes.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/NON-AGENDA (PUBLIC COMMENT)

None.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- 4-A. Alameda Fire Education Program (Alameda Fire Department, Maria Raff/Mike D'Orazi)

Maria Raff from the AFD discussed the FEMA grant for safety accessibility program for seniors and the disabled. The program allows for installation of various devices such as smoke detectors, alarms and other safety and accessible equipment. The FEMA grant is provided via Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and is geared for low-income but will also be utilized for seniors and those with mobility and accessibility issues. AFD is looking for suggestions from the CDI regarding safety trainings, education sessions and resources to inform the community on FEMA.

Chair Harp recommended reaching out to the Ala Costa Center for children with special needs.

Chief D'Orazi stated that he would like to develop a sustainable program via certain target groups in order to maintain the FEMA grant funding.

Chair Harp suggested contacting Austin Tam with the Buena Vista United Methodist Church's Asian and Pacific Islander disability Awareness Project, who could be a good resource.

Commissioner Lord-Hausman recommended partnering with Alameda Hospital to which Maria confirmed they are. Commissioner Lord-Hausman also recommended reaching out to Gallagher and Lindsey and other realty associations. Commissioner Kenny suggested posting a safety article in the Alamedan. Chair Harp and Commissioner Lord-Hausman recommended various medical facilities, clinics and nursing homes. Chair Harp asked Maria if they could share statistics for homes that are not accessible and needed upgrades to which Maria stated she would provide. Maria Raff requested contacts for persons with hearing impairments, to which Vice-Chair Wilkinson stated she will contact the small community of residents to determine the need for visual alert smoke detectors.

Chief D'Orazi and Maria Raff thanked the Commission for their input.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5-A. Goals, Objectives and Events - 2014

Chair Harp requested that the CDI think about projects and ideas for goal and objectives for next year

1. Commissioner Deutsche suggested an accessible playground with universal design features. Commissioner Lord-Hausman suggested it will take a community effort.
2. Commissioner Kenny suggested that the CDI capitalize on disability awareness month such as a brown bag lunch.
3. Commissioner Lord-Hausman suggested more information/space on the City website.
4. Commissioner Franco suggested visible lights/lighted crosswalks along the shoreline.

Commissioner Lord-Hausman recommended the goals be prioritized. Chair Harp requested volunteers.

1. Accessible playground – Chair Susan Deutsche
2. Disability Awareness Month Events – Commissioners Kenny/Wilkinson/Franco
3. Website – Commissioners Lord-Hausman/Kenny/Fort/Wilkinson
4. Lighted Crosswalks – Commissioner Franco

Commissioner Warren asked of the four goals, which ones could be accomplished within a year?

Commissioner Lord-Hausman suggested that Commissioner Deutsche check with Amy Wooldridge with the Park and Recreation Department on what activity the City may have in place already, as well as additional research on accessible playgrounds.

Commissioner Franco will research lighted-crosswalks.

5-B. Universal Design Ordinance

Secretary Akil stated that the joint meeting with the Planning Board may happen first quarter of next year.

5-C. Community Outreach

Commissioner Lord-Hausman and Chair Harp attended the community outreach five-year strategic planning workshop, which focused on housing and various social issues.

Commissioner Lord-Hausman stated that at two League of Women candidate forums, accessible housing was mentioned.

5-D. City Council Meeting Report (Commissioner Fort)

None given.

5-E. Planning Board Meeting Report (Commissioner Lord-Hausman)

Commissioner Lord-Hausman received plans by developer Lennar along Marina Cove and the bathrooms were not properly accessible. Lennar modified its plans to address the accessible bathroom issues issued by Commissioner Lord-Hausman.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary Akil reminded the CDI that there are four-quarterly meetings per year and the Commission can meet as a work group without staffing as often as needed.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

7-A. Commissioner Lord-Hausman stated the bench between Alameda Avenue and Encinal Avenue was moved due to attracting the wrong group of people and that the City is researching new locations.

7-B. Commissioner Lord-Hausman stated the banners were up in time for Disability Awareness Month. Chair Harp confirmed that a banner was visible along Webster Street.

7-C. Commissioner Lord-Hausman discussed the ramps leading up to the bus stops have bicycles chained to them which make accessibility difficult for those who experience mobility difficulties. Commissioner Fort stated bicycles are also being chained to bus poles. Secretary Akil stated both the Public Works Department and the City Manager's Office were made aware of this issue and may be looking for long term solutions.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucretia Akil,
Board Secretary