

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
MEETING MINUTES OF
Monday, July 27, 2015 6:30 p.m.**

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

Absent: None

2. MINUTES

The April 27, 2015 minutes were approved with no changes.

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

- 3-A. Jackie Johnson-Daly, representative of Ala Costa Center, which serves youth with developmental disabilities, acknowledged the opening of the local Ala Costa Center in Alameda and is partnering with Alameda Recreation and Park Department (ARPD) and would like to continue to collaborate with the City.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- 4-A. CDI Organization (Amy Wooldridge, Interim Assistant City Manager)

Board Secretary Akil stated that the purpose of the topic will be to seek input from the Commission and that the goal was to have a productive discussion on how best to move forward with the CDI, which would be led by Amy Wooldridge, Interim Assistant City Manager.

Ms. Wooldridge stated that the initial discussion started with a brainstorm meeting with staff in June about the reorganization efforts and role of the CDI. This process was started with a desire for the City to better serve the CDI and address issues raised by Commissioners, such as whether to add aging.

Ms. Wooldridge addressed several items including:

- Number of members: Possibility to reduce the Commission from nine to seven members. Given that it is the largest member City Commission, she asked for feedback on why Commissioners feel it should remain with nine members.
- Number of meetings: The Commission currently meets quarterly and Ms. Wooldridge asked for feedback on whether to increase that to every other month. The Commissioners all agreed that they preferred bi-monthly or monthly.
- Workgroups: Ms. Wooldridge recognized that CDI has been holding informal work group meetings. She clarified that a work group meeting only needs to be formally noticed if there is a quorum or more of Commissioners present. She also offered the idea to address the issue of a diversity of perspectives on the Commission by having ambassadors who are not formally appointed but participate in work groups.

- Joint Meetings: Ms. Wooldridge discussed that given the mission of the CDI, it would be beneficial for the Commission to continue to collaborate with other Commissions and Boards. This could be as joint meetings and/or assigning a Commissioner to various other Commissions, such as Recreation and Parks, Planning, Social Service Human Relations Board, and Transportation Commission.
- Inclusion of aging: Commission Lord-Hausman recently met with Interim City Manager Liz Warmerdam to discuss the idea of including aging as part of the mission of the CDI. Ms. Wooldridge discussed this with the Commission and whether it was an appropriate fit.

Ms. Wooldridge clarified that changes such as the number of Commissioners or change in mission to include aging would require approval of the City Council.

Ms. Wooldridge also stated that Board Secretary Lucretia Akil will no longer staff the CDI and the City Manager's Office is finalizing a new staff liaison for the CDI and will have that person in place before the next CDI regular meeting.

Commissioner Lord-Hausman stated that the aging population is a general approach similar to those with disabilities, but not specific to just disabilities.

Chair Harp stated it is important to build and maintain relationships with other boards and commissioners. Commissioner Lord-Hausman emphasized the value of joint relationships with other boards and commissioners, which is important to the CDI.

Amy Wooldridge asked about meeting frequency, to which Vice-Chair Kenny believes the CDI would like to every other month.

Commissioner Warren stated that when she started, the CDI met monthly and it is too long of a stretch in between meeting quarterly. Chair Harp stated meeting more frequently helps with getting the minutes more often to keep up with the work of the CDI. Commissioner Franco says that it is a benefit to the public to meet at least every other month, as well. Commissioner Fort also agreed with meeting every other month, which is difficult to stay active and involved when meeting quarterly. Vice-Chair Kenny discussed a retreat to go over the Brown Act and the role of the CDI. Ms. Wooldridge stated that she would develop a new board member orientation packet for the CDI, which she currently uses for both the Golf and Park and Recreation Commissions.

Ms. Wooldridge asked for input regarding the number of Commissioners quorum from nine to seven, noting that it would then be more similar in size to other boards and commissions. Commissioner Wilkinson stated that there are a lot of disabilities in the community which is why the CDI should remain at nine. Commissioner Warren stated that the current number at nine represents a better spectrum of the community.

Ms. Wooldridge asked how they would allocate seats to get their desired range of representation and how the Commission would communicate that to the Mayor and City Council for appointments. Chair Harp stated that prior Chairs/Vice-Chairs of the CDI were allowed to make recommendations to the Mayor, over two different mayoral terms. Ms. Wooldridge stated that with each Mayor, the process may change as the Mayor has prerogative on how their appointments are made. Vice Chair Kenny suggested that the CDI be allowed to have a one-year trial with nine members. Ms. Wooldridge responded that she will discuss with the Mayor.

Jackie Krause, Manager-Mastick Senior Center asked if the CDI were to meet every other month and the number of Commissioners were to be reduced, during the off month could there be opportunities for other outside agency experts to speak to the CDI. Commissioner Lord-Hausman responded that there are currently outside non-profits and experts that speak to the CDI. Vice Chair Kenny liked the idea of having ambassadors and there should be workgroup meetings every other off month when the CDI is not conducting its regular bi-monthly meeting.

Ms. Wooldridge acknowledged that there is a general consensus to have joint meetings on a variety of projects throughout the City. Commissioner Lord-Hausman stated the CDI has addressed and participated in a number of Public Works projects dealing with infrastructure issues. Chair Harp stated both the police and fire department staff have given presentations on safety, hidden disabilities and emergency preparedness.

Ms. Wooldridge discussed the aging population and wanted to know how the Commission felt about inclusion of that segment of the community within the current CDI mission. Commissioner Lord-Hausman stated she met with City Manager Warmerdam on this issue. Aging is what happens and if there is an opportunity to provide accessibility and address aging issues within the CDI it would be appropriate. Commissioner Wilkinson stated that the CDI could partner with the aging community and inform them of resources available to them and being part of the CDI could enrich their life and make them more comfortable.

Tony Lewis, Alameda resident, recommended braille signage on the bathrooms and classrooms at Mastick Senior Center, to which Jackie Krause thanked him for his recommendation.

Amy stated that all of the changes do not have to happen all at once. Jackie Krause asked if any of the CDI Commissioners believe if adding the aging aspect to their role, would take away from their primary role of disability and accessibility issues facing the community, to which all agreed there would be no issues.

Doug Biggs with Alameda Point Collaborative and Chair of the Social Services Human Relations Board (SSHRB), discussed its role with the aging population and the Needs Assessment Survey, which is conducted on an annual basis by SSHRB. Mr. Biggs also emphasized the nuances between diversity and inclusion and that if the CDI attempted to have individuals with specific disabilities appointed to the Commission, it could isolate the individual and take away from the broader work of the Commission which is to represent all of the general community disability and accessibility issues. He offered to share a recent article that discusses this issue.

Ms. Wooldridge asked when the CDI would like to start meeting every other month, to which the CDI agreed to start October 26th. Ms. Wooldridge also requested that Doug Biggs provide the article regarding the diversity role which he mentioned in his comments and assured that CDI that she will report back to the Mayor with all input received from tonight's meeting.

Carol Gottstein stated that during the previous discussions of restructuring the CDI, cost was a factor back then. Regarding Doug Biggs' comments about isolating members based on appointing individuals with certain disabilities, there should be representation from members with knowledge of the various disabilities.

Commissioner Fort stated that having various disabilities represented should not focus on one individual crisis, but rather a larger perspective on the various disabilities.

Ms. Wooldridge asked the CDI how to make that diversity of members a reality, to which Chair Harp stated that the application for the CDI should be revisited to include that specific information of experience. Chair Harp stated that the CDI could help create more visibility with a better website and more information to the community.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

6. COMMISSIONER TASK FORCE REPORTS

6-A. City Council Meeting Report (Commissioner Fort):

Commissioner Fort stated that last Tuesday's City Council meeting had to do with emergency operations and the ability to evacuate. There was also an issue regarding landlord ability to impose rent increases. Commissioner Lord-Hausman stated that the City Council approved the Del Monte project and there will be accessible housing included within that project.

6-B. Planning Board Meeting Report (Chair Lord-Hausman):

There was no report given.

7. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

7-A. Secretary Akil acknowledged that she will be no longer staffing the CDI and expressed her appreciation of having worked with the Commissioners over the years and wished them well.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8-A. Chair Kenny requested a special meeting in September, to which Secretary Akil recommended a workgroup meeting. The Commission agreed to meet on August 24th.

8-B. Commissioner Lord-Hausman stated that there are dedicated parking spots for the Farmers' Market and she is working with staff and the vendors to obtain four more accessible parking spaces. Liz Accord, PW Dept., stated there will be one additional spot on Webster Street.

8-C. Commissioner Lord-Hausman stated that there should be a policy regarding accessible parking for disabled individuals, to which Ms. Acord stated that there will be information presented at the October 26th CDI meeting

8-D. The Commissioners thanked Secretary Akil for her work as Board Secretary and expressed their appreciation to her for staffing the Commission over the years.

8-E. Secretary Akil called for a moment of silence in memory of Commissioner Niel Tam.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucretia Akil
Board Secretary