

# COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

## MEETING MINUTES OF

### Wednesday, February 10, 2016 6:30 p.m.

#### 1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Chair Kenny, Vice-Chair Brillinger, Commissioners Aghapekian, Wilkinson, Deutsch, Linton, Lewis

Absent: Commissioner Franco  
(Commissioner Ethel Warren resigned on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016)

We have a quorum.

#### 2. MINUTES

The minutes for the special meeting on December 9, 2015, and the light minutes from the January 9, 2016 retreat were approved unanimously with a minor edit suggested by Arnold Brillinger, who asked that the Board and Commission assignments that resulted from the January retreat be added to the minutes. Staff Parker said she would add them to February's meeting minutes:

<b>Board and Commission Assignments</b>		
Commission on Disability Issues, 2016		
<b>Board or Commission</b>	<b>Commissioner Assigned</b>	<b>Scheduled meetings</b>
Planning Board	Anto Aghapekian	2nd and 4th Mondays
Rec and Parks Commission	Susan Deutsch	2nd Thursdays
Rent Review Advisory Committee	Beth Kenny	1st Mondays
Social Service Human Relations Board	La Donna Franco	4th Thursdays
Transportation Commission	Tony Lewis and Arnold Brillinger	4th Wednesdays
AUSD Board of Education	Beth Kenny	2nd and 4th Tuesdays
Housing Authority Board of Commissioners	Jenny Linton	3rd Wednesdays
Mastick Center Advisory Board	Wendy Wilkinson and Anto Aghapekian	3rd Wednesdays
Library Board	La Donna Franco and Susan Deutsch	2nd Wednesdays, every other month
City Council	(need to fill this role)	1st and 3rd Tuesdays, plus special meetings

Chair Kenny moved to approve minutes.  
Commissioner Lewis seconded.  
All Commissioners in favor. 7-0

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

3-A Member of the public Carol Gottstein asked that the members of the public who were present at the January 9<sup>th</sup> Retreat (Carol Gottstein and Audrey Lord-Hausman) be added to the minutes. Staff Parker said she would add those names to the minutes.

3-B. Member of the public Anne Steiner expressed concerns regarding the Central Avenue Complete Streets Project, and gave input as a disabled driver. Said that the Shoreline Bikeway Project was a problem. Urged that a disabled driver be appointed to Commission.

Commissioner Aghapekian asked Ms. Steiner to be specific about her problems with the Shoreline Bikeway project. Steiner reports that lanes and parking spaces have been narrowed. Scary to get out of car. Disabled spaces are not on beach side, and crossing the street is problematic. If these same things are applied to Central Avenue project, this is a problem.

Commissioner Lewis discussed presentation made by Gail Payne on Central Avenue Project. Asked Ms. Steiner to apply to Commission to fill vacancy on the Commission.

Chair Kenny mentioned that she discussed the South Shore Bikeway parking issue with the project manager, Gail Payne, and that these issues Ms. Steiner is concerned about are set to be addressed by a committee soon.

Commissioner Deutsch mentioned that the Commission has looked into the Farmers Market parking issues before. The Farmers Market staff should be providing disabled parking. Intermittent disabled parking issues – some managers reserve spots, some do not – at Farmers Market.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

4-A. Recommend Approval of the Paratransit Program Plan (Rochelle Wheeler, Transportation Planner)

- 4A Paratransit Program
- Exhibit 1 - Paratransit Program PowerPoint

(Presentation of above documents by Ms. Wheeler follows)

Chair Kenny asks for clarification on scholarship program. Ms. Wheeler explains that there are not a lot of applicants for the program.

Vice-Chair Brillinger asks about Paratransit Tickets. Wheeler: Revenue neutral – sold by Mastick. Brillinger would like to know more about shuttle program, and discuss frequency of shuttle service question. He explains how he is an active user of program. Discusses route details and ideas for

efficiency and usefulness. Suggests event placement of shuttle – Fourth of July Parade, Art and Wine Faire, etc. Perhaps discuss more that the shuttle is a free service.

Commissioner Deutsch asked if the shuttle service goes to the Farmers Market, and shuttle-user Vice-Chair Brillinger confirms, yes, on Tuesdays.

Commissioner Lewis wonders if we should get the word out better about the shuttle service. Would like to see ridership go up. Discusses route stops.

Mastick Senior Center Manager Jackie Krause adds information regarding these stops. Discusses shuttle break downs, and how notification of riders of a breakdown issue is difficult. Ms. Wheeler offers ideas as to how to standardize notification. Driver calls dispatch number on shuttle sign.

Commissioner Lewis wonders if the shuttle service schedule could be added to the NextBus AC Transit app. Ms. Wheeler thinks this is a good suggestion.

Commission Aghapekian says that he hears all good things about the shuttle, but would like to see the shuttle in service more days of the week. Ms. Wheeler says she will look into that given the budget allowed. Discusses cab service available for urgent needs.

Commissioner Lewis talks about how street events disrupt bus service, and wonders if shuttle service could put into service during those times. Ms. Wheeler discusses the vehicle the City owns could be used for these instances. Commissioner Lewis talks about the connection to the ferry service. Ms. Krause says that this has been logistically difficult, but has discussed a bridge to AC Transit from the Main Street Ferry Terminal to Webster Street.

Ms. Krause talks about the advertising that does happen for the shuttle service, but agrees they could do more. Most people don't care about the shuttle schedule until they need it, feels that most efforts to advertise are ignored. 2010/2011 Mr. Tip and Premium Taxi was widely used. Free service. Tickets were stashed with no date stamps, like gold. Then they started charging for the service, and date-stamping the tickets, which caused a drop in ridership. Talks about shifting demographics in shuttle use.

Chair Kenny asks if increased Mastick population on shuttle days? Ms Krause believes Mastick popularity is more programmatic-based. In fact parking is an issue at the Senior Center, and she wishes more people would use the shuttle.

Chair Kenny opens up to public comment.

Member of the public Carol Gottstein mentions that the lettering colors on shuttle itself is difficult to read. Black letters would be better. Says street banners are rather useless as advertising if most disabled people look down on the ground to navigate path. Used Mr. Tip program when it was free. Thinks that the tickets should not be date stamped because then the money is lost after that date.

Commissioner asks if the tickets rollover to following year. Ms. Krause says no, they definitely time out. Ms. Wheeler is hoping it can become more electronic, instead of paper tickets.

Chair Kenny wonders about a regional transit Clipper Card type application, and Ms. Wheeler agrees this would be convenient.

Chair Kenny opens for deliberation.

Commissioner Lewis wonders what exactly the commission is being asked to approve. Ms. Wheeler says the approval is broad, approve the \$532,000 budget, higher level issues of the program has not been questioned, but have staff make program improvements when implementing it. Commissioner Lewis asks if there is a deficit, or if all money is used. Ms. Wheeler says the program used to be half this size, and it was difficult to accommodate the program. Now there is more money, but every cent can be used on the program and gives the City more choices regarding implementation.

Commissioner Kenny moved to approve.

Commissioner Aghapekian seconded.

All Commissioners in favor. 7-0

4-B. Review and Ratify Commission Bylaws (Kerry Parker, City Staff Liaison)

- CDI Bylaws - under review

Staff Parker has corrected typographical errors in document. One comment that Commissioners had issue with during retreat is highlighted purposefully, as some Commissioners feel the sentence should be removed.

Chair Kenny asks if this is standard bylaw language. Ms. Parker says yes, it's fairly standard. Understands that with recent changes to Sunshine Ordinance there were questions the highlighted statement undermines the authority of the Commission by including the statement. If Commission would like to omit, revise, or redefine the statement, it can, but it would have to be approved by City Council.

Chair Kenny says that in conversations and at retreat she worried other boards could lessen the authority of the Commission on Disability Issues (CDI). She believes that thought may have been wrong. Can only change the Purpose in the Bylaws with approval of City Council.

Commissioner Deutsch thinks changing it would be more work than it's worth. That the Commission does have authority without changing anything. Commissioner Linton thinks it should stay as it is, no changes. General agreement. Vice-chair Brillinger asks if he can still make typo adjustments. Gives an example, talks about page numbering.

Chair Kenny invites public comment:

Carol Gottstein reminds Commission that they had in the past written a letter against a decision that City Council had made, and was correct to do so. Commissioner Deutsch responded she feels that Commission can still do this without the bylaws being changed.

Commissioner Kenny moved to ratify, with suggested edits.

Commissioner Aghapekian seconded.

All Commissioners in favor. 7-0

4-C. Recognition of Flight, LLC for Commission on Disability Issues Logo (Chair Kenny)

Designers of CDI logo did the work with professionalism and thoughtfulness, 3 different logo designs, offered description of logo parts and visual meaning, and gave Commission recognition by offering their services. Chair Kenny offers certificate of appreciation.

Representatives of Flight, Sam Kraesig and Michelle Farrell, accept certificate, thank Commission for opportunity.

Vice-Chair Brillinger asks for write up of meaning of logo. Chair Kenny will send the presentation out to the new Commissioners.

4-D. Discuss Future Goals and Projects of CDI (Chair Kenny)

Chair Kenny leads discussion, and talks about the example of the Recreation and Parks Department (ARPD) revealing that there was Accessibility Report developed for all ARPD facilities, and that it has not been fully explored or accessibility changes implemented. This is a perfect goal for the Commission. Could create a small workgroup to discuss priorities for the Accessibility Report.

Chair Kenny mentions that Vice-Chair Brillinger's suggestions regarding the shuttle presence at events and the parade is another good example.

Commissioner Wilkinson mentions that accessible playgrounds are planned for small parks. More that could be done for parking and accessibility at parks.

Chair Kenny says that the presentation from the Transportation Planner tonight was good, and Vice-Chair Brillinger and Commissioner Lewis are slated to pay attention to the Transportation Commission. Chair Kenny says that Commission could put together a taskforce for this.

Disability Employment Awareness Month in October – Commission has normally put up a street banner, and there was a Proclamation from the Mayor. Perhaps there could be a job fair, a brown bag lunch meeting, something more?

Commissioner Deutsch said she was part of developing a resource fair several years ago, and hardly anyone showed up. So sometimes this sort of thing is a lot of work without much result.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

- 6-A. (None, due to allowable time left in meeting, and announcements from Commissioner still needed.)

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(From earlier in the meeting) There was an article in the Alameda Sun about the dedication of the bench for Nielson Tam, and a lot of people were there, Councilmembers Ezzy-Ashcraft and Daysog, former Commissioner Audrey Lord-Hausman made a presentation, and many others. It was a lovely dedication.

Chair Kenny contacted the Rent Review Advisory Committee, where she will attend the meeting next week. She was not able to attend the School Board meeting, but will be at the next meeting. Anyone on the Commission who would like a letter of introduction their associated board and commission, she would be happy to provide one.

Commissioner Aghapekian is very interested in attending the Planning Board, and he would like to avoid the complaints that the Shore Line Drive project and the Central Avenue Complete Streets projects have garnered from a couple of people.

Commissioner Deutsch will be setting up some meetings with the Library Board, interested in accessibility issues.

Commissioner Linton said she would be attending the Housing Authority Board meeting at the Point next week.

Vice Chair Brillinger did go to the Transportation Commission meeting, two topics, the Paratransit Program (like tonight's presentation), and the Cross Alameda Trail. Regarding the latter, he discusses the "gap" on Atlantic between Webster and Constitution.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerry Parker

City Staff Liaison

Commission on Disability Issues