

ITEM 3-A  
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 6:30 PM

**1. ROLL CALL**

**Jenn Barrett:** I'd like to call to order the meeting tonight on the Commission on Disability. Today is Wednesday, March 13th. We're starting a little bit late at 6:37 PM, just seeing if we could get in a few other commissioners to come due to traffic. Would you like to start off with roll call?

**Liz Acord:** We have Chair Kenny absent. Vice Chair Barrett?

**Jenn Barrett:** Present.

**Liz Acord:** Commissioner Aghapekian?

**Anto Aghapekian:** Present.

**Liz Acord:** Commissioner Brillinger, absent. Commissioner Deutsch?

**Susan Deutsch:** Present.

**Liz Acord:** Commissioner Hall is absent. Commissioner Linton is absent. Commissioner Roloff?

**Jennifer Roloff:** Present.

**Liz Acord:** Commissioner Morrison?

**Leslie Morrison:** Present.

**Liz Acord:** Five present.

**2. MINUTES**

**2-A Approve of Minutes for the November 28, 2018 Meeting**

**Jenn Barrett:** Five makes quorum, so we're going to continue on. The second item on our agenda is the minutes. Item 2A: Approval of minutes for the November 28, 2018 meeting. Would anyone like to approve that?

**Susan Deutsch:** I move to approve.

**Jenn Barrett:** And a second?

**Anto Aghapekian:** I second it.

**2-B Approval of Minutes for the January 16, 2019 Meeting**

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**Jenn Barrett:** Item 2B is approval of the minutes from our January 16th meeting. Does anyone wish to approve these?

**Leslie Morrison:** I move.

**Jenn Barrett:** And do we have a second?

**Susan Deutsch:** I second.

**2-C Approval of Minutes for the February 9, 2019 Retreat**

**Jenn Barrett:** Item 2C is approval of minutes of our retreat which was on February 9th. Does anyone wish to approve this?

**Leslie Morrison:** I move.

**Anto Aghapekian:** Yes.

**Jenn Barrett:** And second?

**Anto Aghapekian:** I second.

**Leslie Morrison:** So do you have to then call for a vote on each of those? You've had a motion and a second, but don't you have to then ask all in favor of approval?

**Jenn Barrett:** I guess so. I'm not...

**Liz Acord:** Is that what you typically do?

**Jenn Barrett:** I can't remember.

**Liz Acord:** Let's go ahead and do that, we'll just repeat the motions. I have noted them. So we forgot. I can note those for you, and then we'll do the call for all in favor.

**Jenn Barrett:** So, approval of the November 28th meeting minutes.

**Leslie Morrison:** And that was moved and seconded, so I think you just need to call for...

**Jenn Barrett:** Does everyone approve?

**Leslie Morrison:** All those in favor?

**Jenn Barrett:** Yes. All those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

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**Jenn Barrett:** Any not in favor? I'm also aye. The item 2B: Approval of minutes from January 16th meeting. All those in favor? Aye. Any opposed? Approval of meetings from the February 9th meeting. Approval of the meeting. All in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Jenn Barrett:** Any opposed?

**Susan Deutsch:** I just wanted to say something about the minutes.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay.

**Susan Deutsch:** Does have to put down word for word everything that's said?

**Jenn Barrett:** Yes. Our regular meetings, they are transcribed. I'm not sure if it's Laurie or someone else who does the transcribing, but it's done from the video. And then from the minutes from the retreat, it was a summary that she created.

**Susan Deutsch:** Is that what has to be done? Because it just seems like a lot of work and then now with approving three different minutes because of how much time it takes to transcribe. Maybe we need to ask Laurie if she can summarize, and that way we can get the minutes after each meeting, instead of looking back to November. It just seems like a lot of work. I was looking at them and I just don't think it has to be that detailed.

**Jenn Barrett:** I can ask Laurie about that.

**Susan Deutsch:** Yes. Or we could just ask her at the next meeting.

**Jenn Barrett:** Commissioner Brillinger, thank you for coming. We'll mark him as present. We just went through the minutes, which were all approved.

**Arnold Brillinger:** I had a comment on that.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay.

**Arnold Brillinger:** When I look at the November meeting minutes, there's a section in there where we never okayed or approved the minutes for the previous meeting. It may be a technicality but when we look at it, there was no vote taken.

**Jennifer Roloff:** For October? For the meeting?

**Arnold Brillinger:** Yes

**Susan Deutsch:** In the November meeting, we didn't approve the previous meeting.

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**Arnold Brillinger:** Right.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Good memory, I don't know.

**Liz Acord:** So, I think what I would propose at this point since we have approved the minutes for November 28th, which I think is what we are discussing.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Yes.

**Liz Acord:** Commissioner Brillinger, if you would... I will just take a request back to staff to have them confirm at the next meeting that the minutes for that previous meeting, which I don't know the date of but I will certainly look up, we can confirm that those were approved. Am I understanding your question correctly?

**Arnold Brillinger:** Yes, but according to the written copy, they were not approved.

**Liz Acord:** Okay, we can look into that. I can look into that with Laurie.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Okay. I don't even know if it's a real big issue or not.

**Jenn Barrett:** No, we should definitely look into that.

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

**Jenn Barrett:** I would like to move on to oral communication, non-agenda, public comment.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**Liz Acord:** We have no speakers.

**Jenn Barrett:** Thank you. New business, we do not have any new business.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**5-A Commission and Board Liaison Reports (All Commissioners)**

**Jenn Barrett:** So we're going to move on to old business. 5A, Commission and Board Liaison Reports, all commissioners. Commissioner Brillinger, would you like to start us off with any report that you have?

**Arnold Brillinger:** Sure. I actually have reports from five different organizations. Just a moment, please. My commission that I'm supposed to go to is the Transportation Commission. Since the January meeting the Transportation Commission met twice, both on Wednesdays and their main focus was on the intersection of Webster and Central. And so they had four different options of how

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to run it, how to make it work. So they had a hearing. The hearing was on where to place the bike lanes and the parking lanes. And there seemed to be a difference of opinion depending on if you were a business or if you were a biker, so that seems to be the crux of the matter. And the commission did not select any of the choices, but they did say that they would study them further. And also they adopted a recommendation to extend the protected two-way bike way from Patton Street to McKay Avenue, and approved the city of Alameda Transportation Program Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities for Fiscal Year 2019 to 2020, and that's the same program that we saw from Gail Payne.

**Arnold Brillinger:** And then they also had a meeting in February, when they endorsed the Transportation Choices Plan and I thought, "Well, Transportation Choices Plan..." Basically that's providing more transportation options for Alamedans with the goal of reducing drive alone trips at the crossings and also throughout Alameda. And they also discussed the Otis Drive traffic calming and safety improvement workshop and survey debriefing. And if you want to see more on those, if they spark your interest, they're online. I should say that I did not go to these meetings, but I did catch them online.

**Jenn Barrett:** Great. Thank you so much.

**Arnold Brillinger:** I also went to the Oakland Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities meeting. And Karen Nakamura - we all know her - she presented a program to us. She is on their commission in Oakland and at the January meeting, she was elected the president or the chairman of their commission. So, they've got a lot of things going on all the time. They had two meetings since our one meeting. I'm just going to let you know what their presentations were. They had a presentation on disabled parking spaces and abuse of disabled parking. They have a group in Oakland that just goes around and checks on people's blue cards. And they find some that are made up and they had some to show. Some of them looked really slick and looked professional, and some really looked like homemade jobs. But those placards that you hang up.

**Susan Deutsch:** Interesting.

**Arnold Brillinger:** And then on their presentation in February, they had a paving update. And we know that driving through Oakland, they've got a lot of potholes and they also realize that, too. And then they had a Measure KK. And out of the money that came in from that, they were checking into how much of it could be used for home modifications to enhance accessibility. And so maybe that's something that we should look into. We don't have a Measure KK necessarily, which was a funding measure, but maybe there are grants that we can find that will help out people who need some work done on their homes to make it more accessible.

**Arnold Brillinger:** And then, another group that I didn't get to go (but I've been there before) is the AC Transit Inter-Agency Liaison Committee, and it meets every couple of months. It's several people from Alameda and several people from AC Transit from their board, and they get together and they compare what's going and what's not going. From their meeting, I picked up that bus route 96 is eventually going to connect with the Seaplane Lagoon Ferry Terminal, the new one that's being built out there.

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**Jenn Barrett:** That's great.

**Arnold Brillinger:** And to me that's very important because I can't get to the Main Street Ferry, there's no way. And so I thought I would bring that up because that's important for people to know. I've got a couple more items I wanted to talk about. I went to the AC Transit Accessibility Committee meeting, that's where they deal with those problems that disabled people have taking the bus. And most of the meeting was on the BRT, that's the Bus Rapid Transit, and basically that is on International Boulevard and East 14th, as it goes into San Leandro. It starts down in Broadway in Oakland, goes up to San Leandro BART station. And you've probably been on there once or twice, and seeing where they're really ripping up the place, because they started back in 2017 to work on this.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Well, they're hoping that by December of this year it will be ready. They've got brand new buses and there will be bus only lanes on that stretch. They're trying to get it to really work and to get people along East 14th and International Boulevard, trying to get them through there quicker. And again for disabled people, if they're mobility disabled, it's going to be just like when you go in on BART from the platform right into the bus, where it's going to be level and you don't have to wait for a ramp or a lift or anything else. And Clipper Cards, there will be places to tap your Clipper Card right on the platform, to get people into these vehicles really quickly and move them on down. They figure that they will have them running every seven minutes in peak hours, so that was interesting to me too. Those are my reports.

**Jenn Barrett:** Great. Thank you so much for sharing, we really appreciate it. Commissioner Roloff?

**Jennifer Roloff:** No, I think I will save my updates. We'll have the same for the follow up discussions from the retreat, we'll go around again?

**Jenn Barrett:** Yes.

**Jennifer Roloff:** So I'll pass for this portion.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay. Commissioner Deutsch?

**Susan Deutsch:** Well, Little John Park has completed their new playground and there's going to be a ribbon cutting on March 27th at 4 o'clock. And Amy Wooldridge contacted me and asked me to speak, make a short speech. And she said that if we wanted to have a table there during that time, we could have a table if we want to give out any information about our commission. Anyway, I just want to say the playground, it's small, but it's really nice. The structure has the ability for a child with a wheelchair to get on to the play structure and there are a lot of items for kids to play with that don't involve climbing. They have musical items where you touch it and it plays music, and they have different items that you can manipulate and turn and see things happen. And then they have a lot of nice climbing structures and they have swings for somebody with a disability. It's not a wheelchair swing, but it is a swing that if you need support it would provide support. Although I

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didn't see any straps on them to buckle in, so I need to ask Amy about that. But I could see that there are holes in the swing for those straps to be attached.

**Jenn Barrett:** Oh, that's good.

**Susan Deutsch:** Maybe this is a work in progress. But anyway, it's a nice little inclusive playground, not as big as the one in Salinas, but it's nice.

**Jenn Barrett:** That's great to hear. You said it was on March 22nd, do you know the time?

**Susan Deutsch:** Wednesday, March 27th. At 4 o'clock.

**Jennifer Roloff:** What are your thoughts on a table?

**Susan Deutsch:** Well, if it's easy and everything is available, then I don't have a problem setting up a table there. But I think most of the people there might be people with kids, so I don't know that we have information for that. I don't know what our brochures look like.

**Jenn Barrett:** Arnold, you've hosted at the tables in the past.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Yes.

**Jenn Barrett:** Is that correct? Have we had pamphlets to hand out to people?

**Arnold Brillinger:** We do have pamphlets. Laurie has them in her possession, in her office somewhere. They're in a big milk crate and there's variety of things.

**Susan Deutsch:** Well, I can then check. Maybe I can find a time to go to Laurie's office and check, and look and see.

**Arnold Brillinger:** I don't know that there's anything that is geared toward children necessarily.

**Susan Deutsch:** Yes. I don't remember that.

**Jenn Barrett:** But there might be people who are there, who would have interest in our commission. And you never know, there might be people of different abilities, obviously, with the children. So it might be something that they might want to look into too.

**Susan Deutsch:** I can set up a table.

**Jenn Barrett:** Does anyone else know off-hand that they might be available to help Susan?

**Anto Aghapekian:** I would be.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay. Anto would... Maybe we can get an email with you and Laurie and Anto to

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talk about maybe setting that up. I unfortunately have work, so I wouldn't be able to attend.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Yes. I was also thinking. Just since it's during business hours, if maybe Laurie could help if the city has a resource and she has a table that the city uses, if she could get there at 3:30 PM and stay till 5:00 PM or something.

**Liz Acord:** I think Vice Chair's recommendation to connect everybody on email to Laurie to see what she can provide. I'm not sure what her calendar looks like off the top of my head, but I think it's a great question to ask and we'll provide support where we can.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Okay. Thank you.

**Susan Deutsch:** If there isn't a table, I definitely could just bring a folding table, a bridge table, to put the pamphlets on.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay, great. Thank you so much. Commissioner Morrison?

**Leslie Morrison:** Nothing to report.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay. Commissioner Aghapekian?

**Anto Aghapekian:** I really don't have much to report except for the Mastick Senior Center. I worked with the director over there in identifying hazardous conditions for people that are wheelchair bound, and we did a lot of remedial work. And my hats off to the director and her staff for following up and doing the work. And it's still a work in progress, but it's all in good direction. I'm very impressed with the work they're doing. Other than that, I don't have anything else to report.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay, great. Thank you. So I was in communication with Beth, had a great idea for my building accessibility and businesses plan. I'm going to reach out to the West End Business Association and then the Park Street Business Association and see if I can get on one of their agendas to talk to them about my initiative or our initiative to increase the accessibility in our local businesses. And then, Laurie had mentioned during our retreat, that there might be money available in order to advertise for this. So, that's definitely something I'm excited to look into further with Laurie. Unless anyone has anything else for Section 5A?

**Jennifer Roloff:** Jenn, just to follow-up. Remind me when we had asked if the grant match for Facade could cover accessibility and Laurie came back and said, "No," and I said, "Can we push that a little bit?" And I think she was going to take that action item up.

**Jenn Barrett:** I did get a contact for that, so I will definitely. Thank you for the reminder. I'm going to follow up with them as well.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Okay, because that was our item, not Laurie's.

**Jenn Barrett:** That would be awesome if we could get some grant money to further encourage



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people to do that upgrade.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Tell me how this works but if our commission is tasked with advising council, and the answer that we got back was just a fairly easy, "No, sorry, it doesn't apply," if we need go to council. So maybe you start that way, and if not, we can go to Council and ask if the guidelines of the grant could be extended. Or however policy would have us do it.

**Jenn Barrett:** That's a fantastic idea, yes.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Okay. Thanks.

**Jenn Barrett:** That's great. Thank you.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Let me know if I can do anything.

**5-B Follow up discussions from February 9, 2019 retreat (All Commissioners)**

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay. Okay, we're going to move on to Item 5B: Follow up of discussions from our February 9th retreat. I think with this, we'll go around the table or around the commission again, but I think one of the things that I want to maybe focus on during our discussion is talk about priorities for the year and how we can achieve our goals. Commissioner Brillinger, would you like to start off?

**Arnold Brillinger:** I do have some ideas, but I don't know where this discussion is.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay. So I'm just trying to summarize where we left off from our retreat, and I know that some of the topics that we thought were very important for our commission to focus on this year was the Census, making sure that people with disabilities are properly counted. Another one was mental health, we had a talk with the school, some of the school leaders last year and we wanted to make that maybe one of our priorities, is making sure that people with certain disabilities within the school had the resources that they needed, and a broader aspect of mental health in our city. And I think that housing and homelessness, if I remember correctly, was another topic that we thought was extremely important to discuss. I think it's hard to come up with what is our main goal, when all of these sound very important and large goals. And so I think that maybe our discussion can be around how we're going to attack one or all, or I think we need to break it down into a few achievable goals so that it's not too overwhelming. And we don't have to go in a circle, either.

**Arnold Brillinger:** I would like to have more programs, presentations to the commission on mental health issues, because I found from that other on, that we really don't know as much as we could know. I didn't say should know because I don't know where that is. But, I think that that would be a good focus, that some of our presentations would deal with the mental health issues.

**Jennifer Roloff:** And I guess this is more of an education for me and possibly for the whole commission, for children with mental health issues, we had the school district come in. And I guess what I would love to be educated on is the schools have their own budgets and the state funding is

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generally responsible for that, and we know how strapped they are. But they shared with us how limited they are and the extensive challenges they have and where the schools are maxed out with dollars, where the city can or cannot kick in for that. And I don't know if that's like a city manager, someone from city finance or... do you know?

**Liz Acord:** I don't know off the top of my head. We do have staff in Community Development that work with our police department as part of homeless outreach, so I would imagine that would be a good starting place. I can ask Laurie to follow up and provide some city points of contact for continuing that discussion.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Okay, that would be great. Especially as far as the school district, I think, would be good. Again, if we can advise the city, "We need dollars for additional human resources," or something like that, just how that happens. I know, for example, with Parks and Recs, there is already an established relationship between the pools, right, with the city, it's a 50/50 or something like that with the city pools? But for schools, I don't know where that is and how much they're going to pay attention since the state district has its own resources. And that's something I could probably talk to school board about as well, being the liaison.

**Jenn Barrett:** It'd be very interesting to hear.

**Susan Deutsch:** When the people from the school district came to talk to us, they were saying that most of the mental health money is coming from the county. Because I had thought that the city of Berkeley had their own mental health, because they have Berkeley Mental Health, and that's where a lot of kids from the school district get counselors from Berkeley Mental Health, but the people presenting said that was county money also. So at some point, maybe we can contact Alameda County and see if we can get some funds that way. If they're giving funds to Berkeley, what funds are we getting? Maybe we can try to find that out.

**Jennifer Roloff:** And I can take that on, being the school board liaison, if I can take that action item. Okay, that's a good idea, and I could even call the Berkeley program, too.

**Susan Deutsch:** So I think this is bigger than just looking at the issue for schools, right? You're going to take it to the school board, but following the same lines that you're exploring, what is the availability of crisis services and not just for kids, but for adults, and what's the funding of those services?

**Jennifer Roloff:** Yeah, I was just particularly focused on the kids issue, but of course it extends to the whole population.

**Susan Deutsch:** Right.

**Jennifer Roloff:** So is there an action item we want to take? I think maybe some additional resources that talk about mental health in general per Commissioner Brillinger. That's a good start there.

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**Jenn Barrett:** Okay. And Commissioner Roloff, if you come across anyone through the school board, in addition, who might be able to come talk to us.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Sure. Or maybe even through the Berkeley program.

**Jenn Barrett:** Or through the Berkeley program, right, because we know that they do have some funding, right?

**Jenn Barrett:** I'll connect with Laurie on finding out who in the city can help us with that as well.

**Leslie Morrison:** So it sounds like one of our goals for this next year is to become better informed about the funding of mental health services and the mental health needs of Alamedans so we can identify gaps and opportunities. Is that what I'm hearing?

**Susan Deutsch:** Yeah, I think that sounds good. I mean we definitely need to know more before we proceed.

**Jenn Barrett:** Right.

**Leslie Morrison:** Right.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Yes. That's a good summary.

**Leslie Morrison:** And I just, for political language, I think that it isn't just talking about people with mental health issues, but really talking about in terms of disability, that it is a disability category. And talking about people that have mental health disabilities makes it squarely fall within this commission's priority. And I think it's important to label it as a disability. I think that mental health community has not really always been embraced by the disability community, and I think it's important to recognize that people with mental health disabilities fall within the disability community and the jurisdiction of this commission.

**Jenn Barrett:** That's a great point, thank you. And I think the summary is great, so I appreciate that as well. Does anyone have any comments on the census being one of our goals for the year, with the 2020 census coming up?

**Leslie Morrison:** I would just say that one of our priorities is to be sure that people with disabilities are captured within the 2020 Census and ensuring that the Census is conducted in a way that is accessible to people with disabilities.

**Jenn Barrett:** Right. And I know that there are meetings that are happening on this, I believe they're happening during the day. And so I can follow up with Laurie, so that, Commissioners, if you are available during the day, to make sure you're able to attend.

**Leslie Morrison:** It's something that I'm interested in, but it would depend upon when of course.

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**Jenn Barrett:** Time. Right, of course.

**Anto Aghapekian:** I would like to volunteer on that. During the days. I will attend the meetings.

**Susan Deutsch:** I could be available depending on what day the meetings are.

**Leslie Morrison:** Lots of interest.

**Jenn Barrett:** Great, that's awesome. Okay, so I will get back to Laurie on that, and if we have the three of you, it can be kind of like a sub-committee. We don't have quorum, so you guys are able to work on that together.

**Leslie Morrison:** And talking about priorities, I have what was captured in the meeting minutes from February, and you are correct that one of the things that was discussed was homelessness and I'm just wondering if people here, if the commission feels knowledgeable about this issue. I'm new to the commission, so I don't really feel like I have a good handle on the implication of homelessness on the community of people with disabilities and whether or not we want to do something similar about spending the year becoming informed, or maybe folks are already informed about that.

**Jennifer Roloff:** When we had our retreat for 2018, we thought that mental illness is absolutely a disability and that's something we wanted to focus on, so I think it took a little while to get the momentum going. I don't know, if there's a legal classification or whatnot, but with mental illness being a disability, I think it definitely falls within our guidelines and no one has told us otherwise, to date.

**Leslie Morrison:** But my question is about the homelessness, it's sort of as a separate topic.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Oh, I see. Right, right. Because not all homeless people necessarily have...

**Leslie Morrison:** Necessarily have mental disability, that's right.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Yes, that's a good point, that's tricky.

**Leslie Morrison:** So I don't know, are people here informed about the situation of homelessness in Alameda and the challenges.

**Arnold Brillinger:** I don't think that we are. You get little snippets and pieces of the figures here for Alameda, but I need to know or I think I need to know, how they come about with these. What do they include as homeless in their stats. And I don't even know who is in charge of that in Alameda or what group. So there's another area that we can focus in on getting some more programs for that.

**Leslie Morrison:** It does seem to dovetail. I think there's a fair amount of overlap, I suspect, between people with mental health disabilities and homelessness although certainly it isn't mutually always that case. But it could be a nice companion if the commission is focusing on mental health

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services to also have a tangent into what's the homelessness situation but look at it with a broader lens than just mental health disabilities. Does that make sense?

**Susan Deutsch:** Yes, because there are people that lose their jobs and end up becoming homeless for periods of time. They don't have mental illness but they just can't afford to pay their rent.

**Leslie Morrison:** And they may have another disability. This commission really is looking onto the issue of homelessness, broadly, but how it impacts people with disabilities, I presume. So, right.

**Liz Acord:** So, I would just say I think this dovetails nicely into the question that we would want to ask city staff working in the homelessness sector about the availability of funding potentially to work with the school district. So, I would say let's wrap this into our request to Laurie to ask city staff to provide some resources and help educate the committee or the commission rather on the general state of homelessness in Alameda.

**Jennifer Roloff:** I think Doug Biggs, he came and spoke with us a little bit about Measure A, but he was particularly addressing what they were working on there, he wasn't talking about the broader spectrum and I think they were breaking ground on Jean Sweeney and there they had to displace a homeless encampment and it sounded like, if I remember correctly, it was a consortium of the police and of Doug Biggs and his organization, probably many other groups. So I don't know if it falls on any one responsibility. And I thought, when I was reading up on Measure A and Measure B, there was something that was posted along the lines of a new regulation that said if Crab Cove became a homeless encampment of sorts, you can't kick them out or displace them unless they have a place to go, and I don't think that was a city thing. I think that was obviously like county or state or... I think "Who makes these policies that affect our cities as well?" So, I don't know if it's just our city. If Laurie is the right resource or Doug, we could probably have Doug just come and re-visit the program. I think he's part of HUD, right?

**Jenn Barrett:** I think it would be nice to hear from Doug or another city official who can provide us even more background into the need of Measure A. I think that would be a great topic to cover.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Yeah, and by the time they come, the election might have already happened and we're not supposed to be so political anyway when it gets close to election time but I think he's funded by HUD, by the federal government, the Alameda Point Collaborative? When the military moved out, we're required to put resource or the federal government gets some of that military land, I think. So anyway, he could probably, definitely approach the city or we could start there.

**Leslie Morrison:** He may also know other people who could join him in a presentation. People who are providing crisis services or something.

**Jenn Barrett:** I'd also be interested to hear from city staff or the people who are running the warming shelter. I volunteered there once this year and it was a very good experience, so I'd love to learn more about what the city is doing in regards to that.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Oh, right and I think Lisa belongs to that church.

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**Jenn Barrett:** Lisa volunteers. Yes. And maybe, she can speak to it as well.

**Jennifer Roloff:** So, if you're going to talk to Laurie, I'm happy to just do a reach out to Doug and maybe say who would be the most appropriate speaker to speak on Alameda, specifically.

**Jenn Barrett:** That would be great.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Is that okay? I'll take that?

**Jenn Barrett:** Yeah. Because I feel like we have a broad understanding of the region and the needs but it would be great to have something very specific to Alameda because I think that's missing.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Okay.

**Leslie Morrison:** The other topic that's described in the minutes from February is voting access, voter access which was an issue that I had raised. But since really the big federal election is in November 2020, it may be enough for us to just tackle these two issues this year and then I would like for that to be something that the commission focuses on in time for the November 2020 election.

**Jenn Barrett:** I wonder how much we can learn from the Census in order to help that, because there's some similarities between the Census and voting as we want to get as many people to participate as possible.

**Leslie Morrison:** I suspect that the Census will be a while before the results of the Census become public and may well be past the 2020 election.

**Jenn Barrett:** But at least we'll have maybe more of a strategy with these meetings of how to get more people...

**Leslie Morrison:** To vote.

**Jenn Barrett:** Right.

**Leslie Morrison:** Certainly. I have some experience around just ensuring that voting places are accessible but also how to get out the word about vote-by-mail options. And I have a connection with someone who does a lot of advocacy around voting issues for people with disabilities and I'd be happy to have that person come and just talk generally about what's happening in that field. But maybe that could be later in the year.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay, that sounds great.

**Leslie Morrison:** It doesn't feel as urgent to me.

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**Jenn Barrett:** Right. I'm not sure if and how many speakers we have scheduled already, but definitely put that on the list because I think that's going to be huge for 2020, I agree.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Because we could even have two presentations in the same day.

**Jenn Barrett:** Does anyone have any further comments about the retreat?

**Jennifer Roloff:** I reached out to Sarah Henry about social media and she sent me some guidelines on what the social media policies were for the city, if we wanted to put out our own Facebook page or whatever social media outlet we find. And I briefed through it and it sounds like something we were all fairly briefed on it, no vulgarity and stuff like that, and then no political positions. But she also said that she has a huge Facebook following for the city page and if we ever wanted to send out announcements, notifications, that she would be happy to send out whatever we wanted on our behalf.

**Jenn Barrett:** That's great.

**Jennifer Roloff:** So I thought that might be a good way to start it.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay, great. It takes away from having to have someone monitor the page, which could be potentially a lot of work.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Yes, so I think we would just have to figure out how we wanted to get her information to send out and what information we did. And I don't know if our chair has allowed to do that based on the minutes or how that works. Or we vote as a group at meetings, what we'd like to publicize.

**Liz Acord:** So I think I can answer part of the question. Public Works staff does this - we as staff, push out information to the public information officer about our various projects, activities, events, and things. Once you decide and land on the appropriate mechanism to figure out what that messaging would be, Laurie can handle that push out from the department level to the public information officer.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Which is Sarah Henry, right?

**Liz Acord:** Which is Sarah, correct.

**Leslie Morrison:** So, what I would just suggest is as we address items that we consider whether or not it would be something that should be pushed out, for example, the park at Little John, has that been publicized as now being a park that is accessible to children with disabilities? It seems like that ought to be something that we ought to be asking them to push out. If they're publicizing the opening of that park.

**Susan Deutsch:** I think Amy Wooldridge has, but I don't know how much she has publicized it, but there were plans that were sent out. Well, at least on the city website so people could look at it. And

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it's been a work in progress for about a year-and-a-half. I could ask her how the ribbon cutting ceremony is being advertised.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Yes, I'm just looking at her post, the city of Alameda thread now. And I know I saw it somewhere, I haven't seen it on hers. But if she hasn't yet, then we could send her a note saying, "Please publicize that someone from the Commission on Disability will be there and if you'd like more information."

**Leslie Morrison:** And that the play structure is accessible to children who use wheelchairs.

**Jenn Barrett:** Right. I think that's huge, is to not only announce that it's opening, but it's a new type of park.

**Leslie Morrison:** Right.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Right. And she might incorporate that in the existing announcement that she's going to put out. I think that would probably be the best.

**Leslie Morrison:** And I didn't mean to put you on the spot with that, but I think that as these items come up for us to just think about is this something that could be pushed out through social media with a disability focus? And I was using that as an example of something that they're probably going to publicize so we should just be sure that they add our spin.

**Susan Deutsch:** Yes, I agree.

**Jenn Barrett:** Great. Okay, I'll make note of that to tell Laurie as well. Was there anything else that people had?

**Leslie Morrison:** Well, just looking at the minutes, the other item that was captured in the minutes in addition to the items we already talked about was climate change. And I don't know if that sounds like that's something that this group has had a priority in previous years. It feels to me like addressing mental health services, homelessness, and the Census is going to be plenty for this year, but I just wanted to call people's attention to that was the other topic that was discussed in February.

**Jenn Barrett:** There have been meetings on climate change. I went to one, I think, last year in the fall and definitely want to keep going to those as I hear about them. But I agree with you, I think that it's a lot this year. So I think that if I hear of them, I'm definitely going to try to attend. Were you in the sub-committee, Anto and Jennifer, maybe? Maybe it was just Beth and me and Anto. And so we'll definitely make sure we attend the meetings just so we know what's going on if there are more in the future. But thank you for bringing that up.

**Arnold Brillinger:** One of the things that we need to do is we need to get more of the community engaged in what we're doing. I don't know how many people are watching us from home. How can we find out? Is there a way to find out? And can we get them to put in some input into these meetings to get their opinions heard too?



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**Leslie Morrison:** So I think this is a larger issue. I love where you're going with this, Arnold. I have concerns about how accessible these meetings are, and I actually have questions about how accessible for example, the social media posts are, particularly for people who have hearing impairments or vision impairments who might use screen readers. And many websites are not accessible to the technology that people with disabilities who have vision impairments and hearing impairments use. So it's an excellent topic, and I think that that's the way we reach people. I don't know how many of you have ever watched one of our meetings.

**Leslie Morrison:** I don't have a vision impairment or a hearing impairment, and it's a very difficult way to engage. And so I think you can't dial in, we can't take public comment if someone isn't sitting here in the room. And in this day and age, there are just so many other ways to engage people with disabilities who might not be able to be physically present, so I think it's an excellent question. I think it's cracking open a much larger issue that I've been wondering about myself. Sorry to put a damper on that.

**Jennifer Roloff:** But I don't think we should stop the momentum that we do have.

**Leslie Morrison:** Absolutely.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Even though we're not capturing everybody. But, yeah, you bring up a good point.

**Leslie Morrison:** Well, and it is for this commission to raise it, because it really raises the issue of how accessible all of the city meetings are and the technology that the city uses to engage people with disabilities to participate.

**Jenn Barrett:** Right. And as you were talking, I was trying to flip through my notes, because I know that we do have an email address for this commission that Laurie reviews and if more people knew about that email address, I think that would be a huge help to get more voice, because even if they weren't able to attend the meeting they could write us an email and we could bring it up on the next agenda. So maybe we look into making sure that that email address is dispersed properly. Sorry, I don't have it right at my fingertips.

**Leslie Morrison:** So I guess what I was thinking is that this is really another big project that the commission could take on just in terms of how accessible both the commission is and general information being pushed out from the city is to people with disabilities. It feels like it's that big of a topic to me. The firm I used to work with redid its website to make it completely disability compliant and there's quite a bit involved in doing that, and I'm fairly certain that the information on Alameda's website probably doesn't meet those high level of standards. If we want to make it a priority I think it's great, but it should be bigger than just, "Is our commission accessible?" It's really, "Is city council available? And can we have better technology so people can participate remotely?" And that isn't just about our commission, but it's about the technology that exists in this building.

**Anto Aghapekian:** Every commission meetings are advertised in the newspaper, what date and

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times. If we could add our email address to that announcement that always comes out on to the local newspapers, then that will be one way of people to send us whatever comments they have. Just adding the email address to the announcement they have on a weekly basis, they announce it.

**Leslie Morrison:** I haven't looked, are the agendas for those meetings posted also? Is there a link to the agendas for those meetings so people know what we're talking about? I haven't looked.

**Jenn Barrett:** There's agendas on the city website, but to your point, it can be sometimes difficult to find.

**Jennifer Roloff:** And we should push that to Sarah too.

**Jenn Barrett:** Definitely.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Sarah Henry, I think. So people can just know how to contact us.

**Jennifer Roloff:** I know it's only one method.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Did they just recently revamp the city website?

**Liz Acord:** Yes, they did.

**Jenn Barrett:** Are they finished with the updates?

**Liz Acord:** Still working on the updates, but yes, you are correct. The city's entire website did recently get a refresh.

**Jenn Barrett:** I do know someone with an accessibility background, but for a large software company. I'm going to try to reach out to her and see if she would be interested in coming to talk to us, because I talked to her once and I found it very interesting to hear accessibility from a whole different perspective. So I'll reach out to her.

**Leslie Morrison:** I also have a contact of the web designer that redid the website for this firm that I used to work for.

**Jenn Barrett:** Oh, great, okay.

**Leslie Morrison:** And at much higher, very high disability standards and really helped us work through things that we didn't know that made our website inaccessible.

**Jenn Barrett:** And maybe if we could even schedule them for the same night, that would be great. Okay.

**Jennifer Roloff:** I just got a new job at Salesforce, which it's very committed to non-profits and I'll see if there's someone that I can do a reach out to, let you know if I get anything.

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**Jenn Barrett:** Okay. So I'm going to talk to Laurie about a potential meeting that we might be able to have this discussion and I'll get back to you guys.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Because this whole idea of accessibility is a very large topic. It could be accessibility to storefronts and things but it's also to programs and to the various activities that are happening in Alameda. And so, we need to make sure that these services, the activities are all accessible to people no matter who they are in Alameda.

**Leslie Morrison:** So, something as little as when you post a photograph, you should hover over the photograph and it should pop up a description of what the photograph is of because people with vision impairments can't see what that photograph is. So, it has to be built in, whenever you post a photo or any sort of an image that there has to be a descriptor of what that is. PDFs are inaccessible, footnotes are inaccessible.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Because they can't be read by the machine?

**Leslie Morrison:** The screen reader can't read them. Bullets are inaccessible.

**Susan Deutsch:** But PDFs can be read now.

**Leslie Morrison:** Not by all screen readers. And again, I'm not an expert in this area but it's the kind of stuff that we went round and round about because we posted so much stuff in that way.

**Susan Deutsch:** I worked in the school district with kids with disabilities and I'm aware that there are PDFs that can be read so that when a student gets something scanned to them, it can be read.

**Leslie Morrison:** On a screen reader?

**Susan Deutsch:** Well, it's an app that reads PDFs. Now, I don't know if that's a screen reader but there are apps that will read the PDF.

**Jennifer Roloff:** In the last technology job that I just left, we sold software that could work with unstructured data is what they call it, right, but you have to pay money for that. So the private industries will have that, but yes, does the state? Does the city? Do all small, non-profits have that technology? I think technology is getting more accessible so we'll probably get there but I see your point right now that it doesn't exist, universally.

**Leslie Morrison:** Right.

**Jenn Barrett:** Great. Thank you for bringing up that topic. Okay, unless anyone has any other issues or items we're going to move on to 5C. Mr. Brillinger?

**Arnold Brillinger:** I was just thinking we were talking about getting the word out. I think that there are so many different things that we can let people know. For example, when it's the street fair out

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here on Park Boulevard, if we get certain amount of parking spaces in the parking garage to be for disabled, more than they normally have, I think the word ought to be disseminated and put in there also that the Disability Commission has suggested this or has made it happen or whatever it is, because we need to let people know that there is a group that is working on these kinds of things. And that's going to be the way that people are more aware of the fact that there are a number of people that meet every couple of months that are talking about disabilities.

**Jennifer Roloff:** I think that's a good idea. It makes me even think like could we block off an extra block of one of the streets just for disabled parking, so we add parking to the total picture and let it be for disabled parking.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Because we have done that in the city garage in past years, where we just asked for some extra disabled spaces and they made sure that they were on flat ground, not on an angle and so forth. There are all kinds of things to look at and I think that these things if they are disseminated among the people, that it will help for us to be more widely known.

**Jennifer Roloff:** And we can keep pushing stuff to Sarah and I think if we get the traction then, we could possibly spin off our own but we could start with really getting that information to her.

**Jenn Barrett:** That'd be great.

**Arnold Brillinger:** But even as Anto was saying in the newspaper, get these things out to them also, into the Sun. Some people read that from cover to cover.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Who was it that got the announcement for our meeting, one of our meetings into the Sun? Was it Laurie that did that? One of our commission meetings was put in.

**Jenn Barrett:** I'm guessing it was Laurie.

**Jennifer Roloff:** We can follow up with her. And then also, what government body of the city handles the Park Street Fair or the Webster Street or all the fairs?

**Arnold Brillinger:** The business associations.

**Liz Acord:** Commissioner Brillinger is correct. The business associations or the business improvement areas apply for a special event permit with the city to host those fairs and then various city departments, if not all city departments, do support that effort. So police from traffic control, public works from public right-of-way, community and economic development, etcetera do support that effort.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Okay. So, Commissioner Barrett, are you liaison for the ABA and GABA and all the business community.

**Jenn Barrett:** I don't believe we have one but since I'm going to be reaching out to them anyways.

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**Jennifer Roloff:** Maybe you could mention the parking piece?

**Jenn Barrett:** Yeah, definitely. So, just to make sure I'm clearly understanding, it's during these fairs that we want to try to increase the accessible spaces.

**Jennifer Roloff:** For parking, yes.

**Jenn Barrett:** Great.

**Anto Aghapekian:** And I think the city should get involved with that. Parking on the streets, it's a city issue, it's not the business. I think we should work with the city asking them to ask the organizers or for the city to dedicate a certain street, a certain area for parking.

**Jenn Barrett:** Right, because they are city streets and the city owned garage and they decide. I'm sure the city, maybe they work with the city to determine which streets are closed during the event.

**Liz Acord:** That is correct. When they submit their special event permit, they are proposing the parameters of that event including what streets would be closed during what times. And so I think that this could be sort of a dual effort between communication with the business associations and then communication with your regular staff person for this commission who happens to sit in the Public Works Department as keeper of the public right-of-way.

**Arnold Brillinger:** While we're throwing out different ideas, who is our planning liaison? Planning board liaison? Anto?

**Jenn Barrett:** Yes, and myself.

**Arnold Brillinger:** And yourself. Do we know how many units have been built or are being built with the universal design or since the Universal Design Ordinance?

**Anto Aghapekian:** No.

**Jenn Barrett:** We do not, but I do know that Laurie is helping conduct the reviews of these buildings, so I'm sure I can get some information from her and if not, the planning department.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Because it would be great to go out and visit some of these places and see how well they actually conform.

**Jenn Barrett:** And it would be a nice thing to share with the community on social media posts and other things to say, "Hey, did you know that we have this ordinance and this is what we've achieved so far from that."

**Anto Aghapekian:** And how the buyers of these units, how they're reacting to it.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Well we need to see all that, because that's part of what we had said. We said

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they need to have some glossy information, not just a thing that is half printed and that it needs to be a selling point rather than, "Oh, by the way... " So that people want to buy them.

**Susan Deutsch:** I looked at the new housing element that was written, and it was nice to see that they are including people with disabilities in the housing element now. And also, they specifically included people with developmental disabilities. And so it's really nice that all the work we did is now included in the housing element.

**5-C Elections of New Commission Chair and Vice Chair (City Staff)**

**Jenn Barrett:** Great. Okay, I'd like to move on to item 5C which is the election of new commission chair and vice chair. I believe how this worked last year is that people either nominated themselves or nominated a fellow commissioner. We can maybe have a little bit of discussion and then we can vote on the item. I guess we can start with the commission chair. Does anyone have any nominations for the commission chair?

**Susan Deutsch:** Does anybody want to be the commission chair?

**Anto Aghapekian:** I would like to nominate you [Jenn Barrett].

**Jennifer Roloff:** And I would love to second that nomination.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay.

**Liz Acord:** So I believe now you can call for a vote, because you have a motion and a second.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Please.

**Jenn Barrett:** All in favor of Jennifer Barrett becoming the new commission chair, those in favor say, "Aye."

**All:** Aye.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay. So unanimous vote that I'm your new commission chair.

**Jenn Barrett:** Thank you. So now we'll move on to the vice chair. Would anyone like to nominate themselves for vice chair?

**Arnold Brillinger:** I'll nominate myself.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay. Arnold. And would anyone like to nominate someone else on the commission?

**Anto Aghapekian:** I would like to nominate Leslie.

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**Jenn Barrett:** I also wanted to nominate Leslie.

**Leslie Morrison:** Wow. What does the position of vice chair entail?

**Jenn Barrett:** So, sorry. I'm sorry we didn't go over this further. So the vice chair basically would support the chair. If the chair is unable to attend a meeting, the vice chair steps in. If we get an email about a concern, Laurie gets an email about a concern, for instance, we had the woman who was stranded because her wheelchair didn't work anymore and so Laurie will reach out to the chair, but then if she needs additional assistance with that, she'll reach out to the vice chair as well. So it's basically just assisting with anything that the chair might need help with or that Laurie wants quick attention to. Say, like when the Census meeting occurred, because she didn't have much time to talk to Beth, she also included me in the email to see if either of us could attend.

**Leslie Morrison:** And it's a one year term?

**Jenn Barrett:** Yes. Both are one year terms.

**Leslie Morrison:** Okay, I'll throw my hat in.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay. Are there any other nominations? Okay, so we will... So just to be clear, if there's no second of a nomination are they still valid?

**Liz Acord:** So I think what we would want to do is consider Commissioner Brillinger's self nomination as a motion and then call for a second and then approval and then if that motion were to fail, move on to the second motion.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay, thank you.

**Leslie Morrison:** It just seems odd to me. That may be procedural, but you have two people who have been nominated, so...

**Liz Acord:** I apologize, I am trying to navigate this the best that I can. I think what the commission could also do is make a separate and third motion if you will to say, "I will nominate..." For example, you could say, "I will nominate X and so move," and then you could call for a second on that motion. Failing having any instructions provided to me in the 11th hour before this meeting, that's what I would see happening.

**Susan Deutsch:** Can we make a motion to have some sort of a vote that's private?

**Leslie Morrison:** I don't think that this is a motion, this is a nomination. I think that we're confusing the terms. So, you have vacant positions and you have people that are nominated and then you call for a vote of the people that have been nominated. It's different than a motion.

**Liz Acord:** Okay.

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**Leslie Morrison:** So other boards I've sat on, you have several people who have been nominated.

**Liz Acord:** I apologize that I'm unfamiliar with the protocol at this point.

**Leslie Morrison:** It's alright. Think you have two nominations. You have Arnold and you have me. And then I think you call for a vote, and you could do a written vote if you want, or since you have two people who are running, we could also take an oral vote or a hand vote, if you want.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay. Thank you for your help with that. I'm sorry, I'm not as familiar with these as I should be. So I apologize for that. So we have two nominations. We have Commissioner Brillinger and we have Commissioner Morrison. I think that the best way to do this is by a hand vote. So can we have everyone who would like to vote for Commissioner Morrison to raise their hand please? And all those in favor to vote for Commissioner Brillinger? Okay, so the vote is four to two for Commissioner Morrison to become our new Vice Chair of the Commission.

**5-D Confirmation of New Subcommittee Assignments (All Commissioners)**

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay. We're going to go on to item 5D, which is the confirmation of new sub-committee assignments. I know that Beth was taking notes on this. I'm sorry, I'm just looking up on my email that she sent me today. She said that our sub-committee assignments have relatively stayed the same as last year. I don't have the list that she created, but it's something that we can just add to the agenda for next time to make sure that everyone is clear on what sub-committee they have been assigned to, and which board liaisons we would like them to report to.

**Leslie Morrison:** That would be great.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay, great.

**Leslie Morrison:** We're at end of the meeting and I'm not clear on what I was assigned.

**Jenn Barrett:** Right, we were very rushed at the end, and so I want to make sure that that goes on to our agenda for next time. The only item that she has in her notes is that Leslie was going to do City Council. If Jenny no longer wishes to, otherwise Leslie was going to do SSHRB? Obviously, Jenny is not present right now, but those were the only two sub-committee changes. Does anyone have any comments or questions on their sub-committees, other than the fact that we're going to talk about it next meeting? No? Okay.

**6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

**Jenn Barrett:** Staff communications?

**Liz Acord:** Just very briefly wanted to thank you all for bearing with the last minute staffing change. Unfortunately, this afternoon, Laurie was no longer able to attend this evening. And so here I am helping, or hindering, depending on how you look at it. So I appreciate your patience with that, and Laurie will be back next time.



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**Jennifer Roloff:** Thank you.

**Jenn Barrett:** Thank you so much for filling in last minute. We really appreciate that.

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Jenn Barrett:** Item 7 is announcements. Do we have any announcements?

**Anto Aghapekian:** I don't have an announcement, but I have an issue that came up in the newspaper I got aware of, that I would like to bring to the commission's attention and discussion, and see if there is anything that we can do about it. It was in last week's Alameda Sun. The Alameda Unified School District, who has given the parents who have children with learning issues, and they have arbitrarily, without consulting with the parents, they have moved them to another school, another area. And the parents are extremely unhappy. I don't know if you want me to read this article. You may have seen this article.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Yes.

**Susan Deutsch:** No, I haven't.

**Anto Aghapekian:** I think that the parents of these children are, literally, 24/7, 365 days and night, are working with these kids. And I have a lot of respect to their knowledge and their experience. And for the school district to just arbitrarily decide to move them around just by giving the parents one week notice is kind of hard to accept. And I don't know what we can do. I don't know if we can write a letter to the school district asking them to pay more attention to the parents and their opinions. Something like this, to my experience, the school district should have organized a workshop with the parents weeks, weeks, if not months, ahead of that to discuss how they're going to handle this issue. I do know that the school district has problems with finances and they're trying to deal with the best they can with how to stretch the dollars that they have, but to do it at the expense of these children is not a good way to go. So my request is for this commission to let the school know that we support these kids and their parents, and we would like the school district to put the brakes on this program and listen to the parents and work with the parents a little closer, to come up with a better solution than what they have.

**Leslie Morrison:** What's the date of that article?

**Anto Aghapekian:** This is last week, this is last Tuesday.

**Leslie Morrison:** It's a Tuesday, so that would have been the 7th?

**Susan Deutsch:** It's the Alameda Sun?

**Anto Aghapekian:** Yes.

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**Jennifer Roloff:** It's fairly recent, yes. I saw it on Facebook.

**Leslie Morrison:** March 5th.

**Jenn Barrett:** Do you have the title of the article?

**Anto Aghapekian:** Yes, it's called, "The program moved, no warning to parents". And a highlight from one of the parents is, "When our children are asked to move, it is often with almost no recognition, as if our children are invisible." There is one paragraph in here that touched me. It's from one of the parents. And I don't know if I should read it, but I think that the school district should pay more attention to what's going down with these kids and their parents.

**Jennifer Roloff:** I would be happy to do some follow-up on that as the liaison to school board. I could even go for public announcements and maybe just do an outreach to one of the school board members, as an action item. I don't know if that's going to solve the problem or get exactly what we want to do, but I can start there.

**Jenn Barrett:** Great. Definitely.

**Leslie Morrison:** Can we write a letter?

**Jenn Barrett:** I'm going to check with Laurie on that.

**Leslie Morrison:** I'd be happy to draft the letter, and circulate it for the commission to take a look at.

**Jenn Barrett:** Great.

**Leslie Morrison:** I certainly have a lot more questions about it, so I need to read the article and understand what's exactly going on.

**Susan Deutsch:** And I have a lot of questions too.

**Leslie Morrison:** So, thank you. But I'd be happy to draft a letter.

**Jenn Barrett:** Great, that'll be great.

**Leslie Morrison:** And circulate it, once I learn more.

**Jenn Barrett:** Right. I'm frustrated that our meetings are so far apart. By the time we come up and discuss this, it's going to be two months later. So let me reach out to Laurie to see what else we can do.

**Leslie Morrison:** So it sounds like what they did is they moved the designated special education classroom that had been at Lincoln, and they moved it to Wood. That's just the first paragraph, what

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I'm gathering, is that they moved the entire classroom of probably middle school kids in special education. But transitions are really difficult. And they're difficult for anyone, especially for children and children that have disabilities. It can be very difficult. As well as considering how to ready the new community to receive a classroom now of special education students. And did the teachers follow?

**Jenn Barrett:** And maybe there's a statement that we can bring to the school board.

**Jennifer Roloff:** And I think what we talked about earlier. Where we can interject, where the city can play, will also be part of the greater conversation, not necessarily this issue.

**Jenn Barrett:** Right. And because you've been nominated by our commission to speak on behalf of our commission at the school board, there might be an ability for us to write a statement and have that said by you at one of their meetings.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Okay, if you circulate something.

**Leslie Morrison:** Yes.

**Jennifer Roloff:** I can send some feedback and maybe just say enough.

**Jenn Barrett:** I think it's something that we should also bring up with the City Council as well.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Yes.

**Jenn Barrett:** I think it's very important.

**Leslie Morrison:** This article describes the children as some of them are non-verbal, some of them, it sounds like they have moderate to severe cognitive impairments. So significant sensory issues, all of which, those kinds of transitions would be something you'd want to plan more carefully.

**Jenn Barrett:** What I'm wondering, are they getting special transportation now to this different location?

**Leslie Morrison:** I suspect that their transportation followed, so they were transporting them to Lincoln and now they're transporting them to Wood. But the transition itself is...

**Jenn Barrett:** Is hard.

**Leslie Morrison:** Hard.

**Jenn Barrett:** Definitely. Okay, thank you so much for bringing that to our attention. Really important. So I will also bring that up with Laurie and see that we can do something prior to our next meeting, because our next meeting is so far away.

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**Jennifer Roloff:** Yeah, and then we'll follow up about a statement. Okay.

**Leslie Morrison:** I'll try to have a letter drafted by early next week.

**Jenn Barrett:** Okay. Great.

**Arnold Brillinger:** This reminds me that, as liaisons, when we're there at the meetings, we identify ourselves. And let them know that we're coming. That we are on the Board, or on the commission, and that the commission is interested in what's going on.

**Jennifer Roloff:** Right. We can declare that we're there on behalf of... Okay. Thank you.

**8.     ADJOURNMENTS**

**Jenn Barrett:** Does anyone else have any further announcements? Okay. Item 8, as adjournment. Would anyone like to file a motion to adjourn?

**Leslie Morrison:** I move.

**Jennifer Roloff:** I second.

**Liz Acord:** Okay. So thank you all for attending the meeting tonight on the Commission on Disability.