



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 6, 2016 1:00 P.M.
Los Angeles City Hall Board of Public Works
200 North Spring Street, Room 350, Los Angeles, California 90012

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Dr. Robert Bitonte
David Wolf
Theresa de Vera
Alisa Schlesinger
Robert Williams
Iran Hopkins
Norma Lopez
Betty Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Harriet Posner (excused)
Richard Rothenberg (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen Simon, Executive Director

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

None

GUESTS:

None

ITEM NO. (1): Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

President Bitonte called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Roll call was conducted and a quorum of the commissioners was present.

Action Taken: Commission approved the March meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. (2) Public Comment

Public Commentary Received – For Announcement Purpose Only*

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): Survivor Benefits for Disabled Dependents.

Currently, people who are married or have a domestic partner are not allowed to leave a disabled survival dependent. Lydia Garcia put forth a recommendation to request get the report of the cost of implementation for the disabled dependent benefits and to seek a Council motion to amend the administrative code. On March 25th DOD sent a formal memorandum to the Chief Administrator Officer for the City of Los Angeles for the cost of implementation and to get a clear understanding of what that process entails.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): Coordinated Care Initiative.

Stephen David Simon updated the Commissioners on the status of the Commission's FOIA request. The FOIA request has been sent to the primary federal office. They are processing the request for the reports and the consumer complaint and communication request. DOD has been contacting the office every two weeks to continue checking on the status.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5) Disability Art Exhibit

A presentation by President Dr. Bitonte regarding the Disability Art Exhibit. The purpose of Disability Art Exhibit is to highlight artist's abilities and promote artistic expression for the disability community. One recommendation is that a letter is to be sent to every other Commission on Disability across the county and to expand the number of organizations who participate in the exhibit.

Action Taken: Send the research poster to all of the Commissions to inform them about the art exhibit. Richard Ray of DOD is to research more technology to make the exhibit more accessible.

ITEM NO. (6): Sidewalk Repair Program.

Presentation update by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director of DOD. In late March, City Council passed a series of recommendations about how the program will be implemented and how the disability community will have a distinct method to make requests for sidewalk repairs and path of travel issues. People can make those requests through the 311 system. DOD will keep the Commission and the community informed on the progress of the requests and the program.

Action Taken: Invite a speaker to give an update and status report to the Commission.

ITEM NO. (7) Department of Transportation's Disabled Parking Placard Policy.

Executive Director Stephen David Simon gave an update on the Department of Transportation's Disabled Parking Policy. Discussion on Assembly Bill 2602's language and how the bill is constructed. DOD is submitting names to participate in the Accessible Parking Committee and will be taking the names of people who are interested in participation on the Committee.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): International People with Disabilities Fashion Conference.

Their first “Fashion Without Borders” Conference is planned to take place at the end of LA Fashion Week. It is designed to bringing together all stakeholders in the fashion and PWD industries: experts in special fashion design, culture, art, research, technology, politics, business, media, and communication.

Action Taken: Place on the agenda for next month.

ITEM NO. (9): Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Stephen David Simon provided background information and highlights for the Department. The Department is focused on the 2016-17 budget, expanding programs, reinforcing existing programs within the Department, working on staff restructuring, and making documents accessible to all Angelenos. The department will participated in a full scale emergency exercise at the airport. The AIDS Coordinators Office is working on transgender issues. On June 1st will be the Trans Health L.A., where the AIDS Coordinator’s Office intends to provide educational opportunities to the community, City employees, and others working with the transgender masculine people.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (10): New Business and Announcements

New business suggested for the next regular meeting’s agenda is to invite the Mayor’s Homeless Coordinator to come and do a presentation and affordable housing. Announcements for the Commission are that Friday the City Council will acknowledge the work of an organization that is currently providing services in Lincoln Heights to students with special needs and to remember and honor of former Councilmember Bill Rosendahl.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (12): Adjournment

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:08 P.M.