



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 7, 2017, 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
Theresa de Vera
Alisa Schlesinger
Betty Wilson
David Wolf
Myrna Cabanban
Iran Hopkins

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Robert Williams (excused)
Richard Rothenberg (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Luis Mata, ADA Coordinator

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

GUESTS:

Timothy Burr Jr., Government Relations Manager, Lyft.
Candace Cable, LA 2024, Vice Chair, Director of Paralympic and Disability Engagement.
Clayton Frech, Founder and CEO, Angel City Sports.
Josh Kruskol, Director of Development and Communications, The Achievable Foundation.
Jennifer Nelson, Hearing Loss Association of America, Los Angeles Chapter.

*AUDIO TAPE(S) and CAPTIONING NOTES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

ITEM NO. (1): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

President Bitonte called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum of the commissioners was present.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the May 3, 2017, meeting minutes as amended.

ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): RIDE SHARING SERVICES

Timothy Burr, Jr., Government Relations Manager, Lyft, presented on the importance of accessible services for persons with disabilities. Lyft's mission statement is "to improve people's lives with the world's best transportation." They serve over 300 markets across the country, providing over 4 million rides per week. Lyft is dedicated to serving all communities, ensuring that the elderly and persons with disabilities have access to affordable and convenient transportation.

Lyft provides voice-over capabilities to ensure accessibility for those who are blind or have low vision. They also have a cashless payment service and a ride summary detail, which is provided through email to ensure transparency and minimize inaccuracies. Lyft drivers are educated and trained on providing assistance to passengers with assistive devices, wheelchairs, scooters, and service animals.

They are expanding services and collaborating with various healthcare organizations to promote transportation services for non-emergency medical appointments. Lyft currently works with Brookdale Senior Living, the largest owner and operator of senior living communities through the United States.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): COD OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The Commission on Disability discussed nominations for the following positions: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and Secretary. The elections will be held on Wednesday, July 5, 2017.

Action Taken: The Commission on Disability elections are scheduled to take place on July 5, 2017.

ITEM NO. (5): 2017 ANGEL CITY GAMES

Clayton Frech, CEO and founder of Angel City Sports, presented on the 3rd Annual Angel City Games, and the nexus with Angel City Sports.

Angel City Sports provides adaptive Paralympic Sports equipment and programs for adults and children with disabilities. Angel City Sports is “leading the Paralympic Sports movement in Southern California, creating sports opportunities for anyone with a physical disability.”

The organization strives to provide everyone with access to sports. This includes, but is not limited to connecting community members with resources and programs that suit their interests and needs.

The Angel City Games is an “inclusive competition open to all athletes from the United States and abroad, of all skill levels, who have physical or visual impairments.” The Angel City Games will be held from June 22 through June 25, 2017. This year’s event will offer competitions in five different sports.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): LOS ANGELES 2024 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC BID

Candace Cable, Vice Chair, Director of Paralympic and Disability Engagement, Los Angeles 2024, presented on the LA 2024 bid. The International Paralympic Committee began as the International Games, which was held in conjunction with the 1948 London Olympic Games.

The first Paralympic games only offered a few events and now there are over 22 events in the Paralympic summer games.

While attending Long Beach State University, Candace Cable endured a spinal cord injury, which prevented her from walking. During this time, she met people who were participating in adaptive sports, and for 27 years she has been promoting the message of accessibility for all and inclusion.

She hopes the Olympics and Paralympics will be hosted by the City of Los Angeles in 2024. She emphasized that our infrastructure is already built, making this a perfect city for the games. Furthermore, the venues that Los Angeles utilizes for the events would only require adaptations to fit the needs of the Paralympics.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (7): THE ACHIEVABLE FOUNDATION

Josh Krukol, Director of Development and Communications, Achievable Foundation, presented on his organization and their role in serving Los Angeles-area residents with developmental disabilities. They administer primary and specialty care to persons with cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and other developmental disabilities.

The Achievable Foundation is a nonprofit organization and federally qualified health center, and community health center that focuses on helping persons with disabilities. They serve low income households, and those with intellectual development disabilities.

The Achievable Foundation ensures that their doctors receive special training, and their patients are given adequate care and extended appointment times. They are a community centered organization. Accordingly, they have developed partnerships with various regional centers, dental offices, and hospitals.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): NOISE-INDUCTED HEARING DAMAGE AND LOSS

Jennifer Nelson, Hearing Loss Association of America, Los Angeles, presented on hearing loss and its impact on people within the United States. The Hearing Loss Association's mission is "to provide support, information, education, and advocacy for individuals with hearing loss and their loved ones." Approximately 48 million people within the United States suffer from hearing loss, and 300 million people worldwide.

The most common work-related injury is hearing loss. Today, approximately 20 percent of young adults suffer from hearing loss, and more than 30 million Americans are exposed to dangerous levels of noise in the workplace. Additionally, 1.8 million children have hearing loss within the State of California. According to the data that was presented, quieter environments increase morale and overall productivity. On the contrary, loud noise in the workplace increases illness, stress, fatigue, elevated blood pressure, more accidents, and lower job morale.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (9): MEASURE M

Discussion and action regarding funding for Access through Measure M, the 2016 voter-approved ballot measure for an increase in the county sales tax to improve traffic. Motion for consideration.

Action Taken: Action (voting) is postponed until July 5, 2017.

ITEM NO. (10): MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS

The following commissioners provided a brief synopsis of their committee efforts and committee objectives:

President Bitonte reported on the Housing subcommittee's discussion to help the homeless population receive their Social Security benefits. This would involve going out with the Department of Social Security; a field officer, medical consultants, a psychiatrist and physician, and presenting a full packet to Department of Social Security.

Commissioner de Vera reported for the Emergency Management subcommittee. She plans to attend the June emergency preparedness event in Downey, California.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (11): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Department on Disability did not present an Executive Director's Report.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (12): MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS

Commissioner de Vera requested that action items be moved to the beginning of the agenda, to ensure a quorum of commissioners are present for voting.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

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ITEM NO. (13): ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 4:15 P.M.