



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 15, 2024 2:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

Board of Public Works Hearing Room 350, City Hall

200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Zoom Video Conference

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Akiko Tagawa, President
Jorge E. Acevedo, 2nd Vice President
Mary Grace A. Barrios, 1st Vice President
Alisa Schlesinger, Commissioner
Candace Cable, Commissioner
Iran Hopkins, Commissioner
Robert Bitonte, Commissioner
Myrna Cabanban, Commissioner
Robert Williams, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Julia Sanchez De La Vega, Principal Civil Engineer, Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works

Natalie Sparrow, ADA Coordinator Pedestrian Rights of Way of the Sidewalk Division, Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works

GUESTS:

ITEM NO. (1): REQUEST FOR TELECONFERENCE OPTION PURSUANT TO AB 2449

In accordance with AB 2449 Section 2(a)(i) members may now notify the legislative body of their need to participate remotely for just cause, if they haven't already done so, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely. The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.

Action Taken: 1st Vice President Commissioner Mary Grace A. Barrios attended the Commission on Disability meeting virtually with the approval of the Commission on Disability.

ITEM NO. (2): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the January 2024 regular meeting and will vote to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for the January 2024 regular meeting.

ITEM NO. (3): PUBLIC COMMENT

For items not on today's agenda, but under the Commission's jurisdiction, members of the public who wish to speak on items shall be allowed to speak for up to two minutes per item up to a total of five minutes per meeting.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM

Julia Sanchez De La Vega, Principal Civil Engineer, Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works and Natalie Sparrow, ADA Coordinator Pedestrian Rights of Way of the Sidewalk Division, Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works will present on the Willits, et. al. Settlement, the Sidewalk Repair Program (SRP) and its achievements and goals, and related policy.

- I. Presentation is by Julia Sanchez De La Vega, Principal Civil Engineer, Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works and Natalie Sparrow, ADA Coordinator Pedestrian Rights of Way of the Sidewalk Division, Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works. The sidewalk is the most complicated component when considering the right of way/path of travel in the City of Los Angeles. There are about 93,000 miles of sidewalk and about 92,000 curb ramps that exist within the City of Los Angeles that provide for pedestrian safety, mobility, accessibility, and other public uses. The Bureau of Street Services (Streets LA) is the City's asset owner/manager of sidewalks, and addresses risk and liability, grant projects, general sidewalk repair requests/maintenance repairs, street use enforcement, and manages the street transit amenities program. The Bureau of Engineering oversees the Sidewalk Repair Program (Willits Settlement Agreement), and is involved with permitting pedestrian facility improvement requirements for private development projects, and capital project delivery for DOT and other client departments. In 2006, a lawsuit was brought on by a number of plaintiffs with disabilities with a settlement agreement in 2015, establishing the Sidewalk Repair Program that allocates \$1.4 billion over the next 30 years to remediate existing barriers in pedestrian facilities (sidewalks, create curb cuts, crosswalks, and etc.), ensures all newly constructed or altered pedestrian facilities comply with disabled access laws and standards, compliance reporting, and retains an ADA Coordinator for the pedestrian right of way. Since July 2017, the

Sidewalk Repair Program has improved program access by repairing 1089 sites, 74.7 miles of sidewalk, and 2054 curb ramps repaired/installed; access request by repairing 1122 sites, 93.3 miles of sidewalk, 621 curb ramps repairs/installation; the rebate program by repairing 680 sites and 14.2 miles of sidewalk; and the tree program by planting 1764 trees and removing 861 trees. For more information about the program and where to submit an Access Request, please visit www.sidewalk.lacity.org or call MyLA 311.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5): COMMISSION COMMITTEE UPDATES

The four current committees: Disabled Homelessness, Policy and Legislation, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Emergency Management will provide updates, recommendations, or other news to the full commission, which the Commission may choose to act upon.

- I. Presentation is by Commission on Disability Committees. Commissioner Bitonte gave an update for the committee on Disabled Homeless, which will move forward by submitting a written recommendation to the Commission to meet with the City, Mayor, and Department of Social Services regarding establishing a mobile Social Security unit. Commissioner Cable gave an update for the Policy and Legislation Committee, which will add support for the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPR) to the City's legislation agenda and work on creating the salutation format to move forward for support. Commissioner Barrios gave an update on the Transportation and Infrastructure, which will request an update from GSD on repairing City facilities to ADA standards and make a visit to LAWA and People Mover. Commissioner Cabanban gave an update for the Emergency Management committee on reaching out with other members and reading the after-action reports from EOC.

Action Taken: No actions were taking during this meeting.

ITEM NO. (6): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ongoing update on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability. The Department on Disability will

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be meeting with the Mayor's team to review the draft of the budget for the next fiscal year and prioritize all of the positions that are open and submit proposals to fill and keep the positions in the department. The US Access Board will be coming to LA for their quarterly meeting, and will have a public meeting at 1:30pm at the California Endowment Center. DOD will meet with the Department of Transportation and Metro to review ADA and transportation in the City, and meet with LA2028 to review ADA related items for the Olympics and Paralympics in April. ReelAbilities and Bus Stop Films will be having a pre-ReelAbilities event to screen a film and a short film and will be having a panel with the actors and directors of the film on March 6th. The Abilities Expo will be March 15th-17th at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Items for the next regular meeting's agenda and announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests, as well as follow-up items from this or previous commission meetings to be presented at the next meeting. No new business or announces from the Commission on Disability or the Department on Disability.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED APPROXIMATELY 4:00 P.M.