

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES  
MEETING MINUTES OF  
Wednesday, December 9, 2015 6:30 p.m.**

**1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Acting Chair Kenny; Commissioners Aghapekian, Deutsch, Lewis, Franco, Linton, Brillinger, Wilkinson

Absent: Commissioner Warren

**Agenda change** – Andrew Thomas will not be here tonight, so we will be not discussing Universal Design Ordinance.

**Introductions** of new Commissioners Linton and Aghapekian.

**2. MINUTES**

The October 26, 2015 minutes were approved with a minor edit mentioned by Commissioner Brillinger. Acting Chair Kenny moved, Commissioner Lewis seconded. All approved. 8-0

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

- 3-A. Member of the public Audrey Lord-Hausman says Public Works Department should receive recognition for new pedestrian traffic signal timing on Park Street, which is safer for pedestrians by allowing more time for walking across the street.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

- 4-A. Recommend City Council Approval of the Central Avenue Concept Including Safety and Other Street Improvements (Gail Payne, Transportation Coordinator)

*Payne:* City was fortunate to receive competitive grant for project. Hired consultants for project. (Presentation on project was included with packet. Please refer to included presentation.)

12 schools total in project area, ~5000 students, trying to get them walking and biking to school. Currently has 4 motor vehicle lanes, best practice bikeways says 2 motor vehicle lanes, City recommends 3 motor vehicle lanes.

Most of Alameda is 25 mph, most are going above the speed limit. Project reached out to many stakeholders on project, 3 different workshops, with over 200 attending one or more workshops. Will be going to City Council for approval early 2016. Asking CDI to recommend concept tonight.

(Presentation)

Questions: Acting Chair Kenny asks about accessible parking, wonders where the bike lane will exist? Payne: In front of the Encinal High, there will be a sidewalk area so everyone can use it.

Commissioner Lewis thanks Payne for sending him exhibits in Word docs. Will these be audible signals? Payne says yes, and Vibro-tactile. Payne says they keep chirping down because of the residential area. Best practices changes over time, and standards change – is there an intersection that works best to model from? Lewis says intersection of Park and Santa Clara works best, better than cuckoo/chirp. Details about sidewalk widening are discussed. No mention of bus service being improved in the area. Payne says City is working to improve bus lines in Alameda with AC Transit. Hiring consultants to work on citywide transit plan, to improve public transit. Just starting study. Confirms that bicyclists should follow rules of the road as motor vehicles.

Commissioner Aghapekian asks about the different schemes offered – why are they different? Payne explains the different parts of the project, and how different applications are needed in different locations. Will person in wheelchair be able to move along project area from beginning to end? Payne says yes, it will be a separate pathway in a continuous path.

Commissioner Lewis asks about 6<sup>th</sup> and Central (St Barnabas) asks about crossing. Payne responds yes, that is a intersection of concern. Now, it has a marked crosswalk, with 4 motor vehicle lanes to cross. City wants to change this to crossing 2 motor vehicle lanes, and have a pedestrian refuge island in the middle.

*Public comment:* Carol Gottstein – has been to the Transportation Committee meetings about this. Takes exception with the project in general. No project outreach to groups that are disabled peoples' advocates.

*Public comment:* JoanAnn Radu-Sinaiko – Bicycles on Shoreline can use both bikeway and path. Before project happens, she would like laws made beforehand, and community educated beforehand. Should be on ballot. Individuals matter more than bicyclists. This project has not reached out enough to disabled community.

Acting Chair Kenny moves to recommend Central Ave Complete Streets Project to City Council. Wilkinson seconds.

All Commissioners in favor. 8-0 *Audio recording cuts out here.*

4-B. Presentation and Recommendation on Listening Devices for City Hall's Council Chambers (Susan Jeffries, Hearing Loss Association of America)

Susan Jefferies opens discussion, discusses resources for hearing disabled. She reports she enjoys the responsiveness of the City Clerk to the issues at hand, thinks that the technology available in Council Chambers is sufficient. There should be a sign stating that listening devices are available for the public.

Susan brings other experts, Derek and Peter to discuss other possibilities – recommends more headsets be available. Offers the idea of public counters around the City to have Counter Loops, where communication is assisted right at the public counter for the hearing disabled.

4-C. Vote on New Commission Meeting Dates and Location (Acting Chairperson Kenny)

As discussed previously, City Staff Parker lists new meeting dates for Commission, given the formula of every other (even) month on second Wednesdays, in Council Chambers. Total of 6 meetings per year. For 2016 that will be, February 10, April 13, June 8, August 10, October 12, and December 14.

Acting Chair Kenny moved to approve.  
Commissioner Brillinger seconded.  
All Commissioners in favor. 8-0

4-D. Discussion and Vote on CDI Retreat (Acting Chairperson Kenny)

Discussed dates in January for Commissioners to discuss Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance, vote on Chair/Vice-Chair, and make assignments for local boards and commissions.

Commission decided to meet at Mastick Senior Center on January 9, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Details forthcoming.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

5-A. Discussion and Recommendation on Proposed City of Alameda Universal Design Ordinance (Andrew Thomas, City Planner)

(CANCELED ITEM – will be moved to future meeting.)

7. **STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

7-A. City Staff Parker thanked Commissioners for input on City Website Accessibility adjustments made recently. City will still be making improvements in the future, so feedback is welcome any time.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Discussion on tonight's vote regarding the Central Avenue Complete Streets Project was re-opened, and the Commissioners and the public speakers discussed about how the process of the vote could have been better handled.

The public speakers felt as though the Commission dismissed their comments, and did not feel like their concerns were addressed appropriately. Some Commissioners spoke about their discomfort of not deliberating again after the public comment was offered after the project presentation, and Acting Chair Kenny apologized and said she would make sure such discussion happens after public comment in the future. There was no re-vote.

**9.     ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerry Parker

City Staff Liaison  
Commission on Disability Issues