

APPROVED
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
MEETING MINUTES OF
August 25, 2008

TIME The meeting convened at 6:38 p.m.

PRESENT Chair Lord-Hausman, Commissioners Berger, Longley-Cook, Kirola, Kreitz and Krongold.

ABSENT Vice-Chair Moore and Commissioners Robinson and Fort.

MINUTES

The July 28, 2008 minutes were approved with corrections to Agenda item number two under New Business.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary Akil distributed information regarding a memo from the Mayor concerning the September 17, 2008 kick-off meeting at the O'Club for Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda, which will address climate protection.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bike Plan Task Force Committee (Commissioner Kreitz):

Commissioner Kreitz stated that there has been no meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

2. Alameda Buena Vista Commons and Opening (Commissioner Longley-Cook)

Commissioner Longley-Cook attended the grand opening event and reported that the units turned out nice. There are solar panels on the roofs and PG& E offers rebates to families who use alternative energy.

Chair Lord-Hausman asked Commissioner Longley-Cook if she viewed the accessible units to which she replied yes, although the stairs were not as wide but the other rooms were very accessible. Chair Lord-Hausman asked if the upstairs bathroom was accessible to which Commissioner Longley-Cook replied that it is not. Chair Lord-Hausman stated that she would follow up with staff regarding this issue.

Chair Lord-Hausman reiterated that any new construction activity in the City should include input from the CDI.

Commissioner Krongold stated that she would be willing to coordinate a presentation by Universal Design Associates to assist the CDI in its review of accessibility items under new construction activity. Chair Lord-Hausman agreed and asked that Commissioner Krongold facilitate that presentation.

Commissioner Berger indicated that she knows Dan Lachtman, ADC Executive Director and will call him regarding the upstairs bathroom not being accessible. Commissioner Berger also suggested that Center for Independent Living (CIL) be on the checklist for future building construction activity within the City.

Chair Lord-Hausman suggested that the CDI write a letter to the City Council to address these issues and thanked Commissioner Longley-Cook for attending the grand opening.

3. Commission Disability Internet Webpage (Chair Lord-Hausman/Secretary Akil):

Chair Lord-Hausman stated that she and Secretary Akil met with the City's IT Manager regarding the webpage. The page will happen, although it will be basic to start.

Commissioner Krongold asked how much it cost to which Secretary Akil responded up to \$3,000. Commissioner Krongold offered her services to assist in the design and implementation of the page to which Secretary Akil responded that in order for the page to be connected to the City's website, it must be done through the City's current web provider. Further, the ADA Plan Update and information is an official document of the City and must located within the City's website.

Commissioner Kreitz asked why couldn't the Commission apply grants on behalf of the City to which Secretary Akil responded that the Commission is not a non-profit with 501(k) status and would not be permitted on that basis.

4. Discussion Regarding the Start Time of Board Meetings (Commissioner Berger):

Commissioner Kreitz stated that she commutes from Dublin and it is difficult for her to get to the meeting with a start time of 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Berger stated that her commute does not allow her enough time to get to the meeting on time and requested that the meeting be pushed back 30 minutes.

Commissioner Longley Cook stated she likes the earlier start time, thereby ending the meeting earlier in the evening rather than leaving later at night.

Commissioner Krongold stated that she likes the earlier start time.

Commissioner Kirola stated she likes the earlier start time.

Secretary Akil stated that the reason the meeting was changed to an earlier start time was to

accommodate individuals who used public transportation, including Paratranist, as well as an effort to promote greater public participation by engaging the community and bringing greater visibility and awareness of issues regarding disabled services and resources within the City. The 6:30 p.m. start time also secures sufficient staff coverage for the duration of the meetings.

Chair Lord-Hausman stated that she liked the earlier start but also recognizes the importance of having all of the Commissioners present for the start of the meeting. The Chair asked for an informal vote to change the meeting time to 7:00 p.m. to which there were five yes; zero no's; and one abstention. Chair Lord-Hausman stated that she would confirm with the Commissioners not present, as to whether or not they want to change the start time from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Secretary Akil stated that should the Commission decide to change the start time, the CDI Bylaws would have to be amended and adopted by a majority (2/3) vote during the September 22, 2008 meeting.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

There was no staff communications.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1. Commissioner Longley-Cook asked what was the status of the Commission Calendar to which Commissioner Kreitz responded that it was not here and not completed. Chair Lord-Hausman stated that she made changes and asked that the updated version be distributed at the September 22 meeting.

Commissioner Krongold stated that she would provide information about other events over the next six months that may be of interest to the Commission, which could be added to the calendar.

2. Commissioner Longley-Cook requested that the proclamation for Disability Awareness Month be agendized for the first City Council meeting in October and emphasized the importance of sticking with that date, since last year's proclamation was pushed to the end of October.

Commissioner Kreitz asked what is the status of the tree planting during Disability Awareness Month to which Chair Lord-Hausman stated that she would call Vice-Chair Moore for a status on her progress.

3. Commissioner Berger stated that she and Commissioner Kreitz attended the Crab Cove event in

August and no one showed up and suggested that the Commission should redirect its energy into other events, such as job fairs. This issue should be revised in Spring 2009 before commitments are made for CDI representation. Chair Lord-Hausman responded that the other Crab Cove dates were successful with good turn out and response to the CDI table.

Chair Lord-Hausman stated that the CDI can discuss other choices, however the focus should remain on City events such as Earth Day, Park Street Festival, as an example.

Secretary Akil stated that since the adoption of the ADA Transition Plan update, there has been an increase in visiting the current webpage for reference. Once the ADA /CDI webpage is up and running, there will be more exposure for the CDI.

4. Chair Lord-Hausman distributed copies of highlights of the Federal Disability Programs provided by the GAO office. It provides information on how coordination could facilitate better data collection to assess the status of people with disabilities.

Commissioner Berger asked that with the national elections coming up, what could the CDI do to ensure total accessibility for those with disabilities, to which Chair Lord-Hausman responded that she could check with Mastick Senior Center. Commissioner Kreitz suggested to check with the Registrar of Voters.

Commissioner Longley-Cook stated that because this is an important election year, there would be a more active response by people, in general.

5. Chair Lord-Hausman read a travel article which advised that when individuals with disabilities reserve hotel rooms, they should use the word "blocked," instead of "guarantee" as often times rooms for the disabled are not honored when requested.
6. Chair Lord-Hausman distributed copies of the local Disaster Registry form to approximately 12 individuals that she knows, who have all submitted their completed forms to the Fire Department without hesitation.

Commissioner Krongold confirmed that the CERT program manages the Disaster Registry.

Commissioner Berger suggested distributing the form to people who receive Meals on Wheels.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, September 22, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 360 at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucretia A. Akil
Commission Secretary