

Commission on Disability Issues
December 9, 2015
Item 2-A

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
MEETING MINUTES OF
Monday, October 26, 2015 6:30 p.m.**

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Present: Acting Chair Kenny; Commissioners Wilkinson, Deutsch, Franco,
Lord-Hausman, Harp, Brillinger, Lewis

Absent: Commissioner Warren

NOTE: DISCUSSION BELOW WAS ORDERED DIFFERENTLY THAN AGENDIZED DUE TO SCHEDULING NEEDS OF SPEAKER ANDREW THOMAS, CITY PLANNER

4. NEW BUSINESS

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

Mr. Thomas presents handout, gives background. Released proposed ordinance language to Social Service Human Relations Board (SSHRB) and Commission on Disability Issues (CDI) last month. Proposed ordinance lays out requirements on all new major projects in Alameda. Concept is Universal Design Unit is one that could be adapted to accommodate persons with disabilities. Bedroom, Kitchen, Living Area, Bathroom on first floor, has elements that accommodate range of physical disabilities.

Percentage of new units that this would apply to is under discussion. What does the building code require now? Chapter 11-A of Uniform Building Code should be referenced, which is well known by City inspectors and planners. City adopts building code changes every year, and any changes to that chapter at the state level would be adopted each year.

Add these items to conditions of approval. Then it is on City to make sure building code is adhered to, rather than adopting new language that is only specific to Alameda.

Percentage: 15% seems too low – what is the right number? What do we tie the percentage to? We want to write something that is easily adaptable. Keep it simple. Unit should be accessible to enter, 4 primary living spaces without stairs. Stairs could in unit, but the primary living spaces are accessible.

Building code already establishes these standards. Division 4 of Chapter 11-A. Wide enough for accessibility, wall will be reinforced for grab bars, although grab bars will not be present; modifiable sink, modifiable faucets.

No final decision tonight. Would like to have input from Commission. Good news is that Planning Board is asking the same questions as CDI, and would like to work with CDI to make recommendations to Council.

Commissioner Kenny thanks Mr. Thomas for working on this, and think so much about these issues.

Mr. Thomas addresses percentage question. Are there specific items that are necessary, items that should be applied to all units. Perhaps the blocking/reinforcement in the wall, not sure what the items should be

Everything goes to the planning board, but they're not checking to see if there is reinforcements in the wall, but list of other things. But if there were some sort of rule, like that they had a "25% of all units", it should easy to see that 25% of the units presented to Board are accessible or adaptable. Marked with a U, for instance. Should be a quick look, identifiable to the design requirements.

Create a checklist for the plan checkers. Should heavily refer to Chapter 11-A

Question: Commissioner Lewis - clarification on statement – this wasn't permanent? Could be made to disabled unit?

It's permanent, but it doesn't have all of elements necessarily present, but adaptable for disabled unit without difficult alterations to unit.

Who's going to know down the road that it is adaptable? Post first owner?

Clarification – Universal Design Unit, not disabled unit. First owner may not know, but if someone would like to adapt the unit, the infrastructure will already be present. No stairs, wider accessible routes, etc.

Commissioner Lord-Hausman would like more messaging around such units. That the units exist in a development. Electrical, grab bars – sales office would know which ones are adaptable.

Mr. Thomas explains "Mandatory to Offer" means developer hasn't built the units yet, presents the models, what happens regularly is that units are customized for original owner and may not include Universal Design elements. Second buyer should be able to make the changes

Schedule a workgroup? Mr. Thomas leaves for Planning Board Meeting.

(Quick break for Announcements before proceeding with agenda)

Acting Chair Kenny welcomes new Commissioners Arnold Brillinger and Anthony Lewis.

Commissioner Brillinger introduces himself first, then Commissioner Lewis.

Introduces Kerry Parker from the Public Works Department, new City Staff Liaison for the Commission on Disability Issues.

2. MINUTES

The July 27, 2015 minutes were approved with minor edits mentioned by Commissioners Lord-Hausman and Deutsch.

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

- 3-A. Member of the public JoanAnn Radu-Sinaiko comments regarding becoming disabled in Alameda. Bicycle Path on Shoreline: after project, there are four disabled spots off of Shoreline Drive, just north of the street. Did not want to have to cross the street. Even the bowling alley has 4 disabled parking spots up front.

Member the public Carol Gottstein brought this issue up last year with Alameda Transportation Commission. Comments on City's traffic-calming projects: Shore Line Drive, Clement and Central Avenue. Concerns about enough and convenient parking for disabled people.

Acting Chair Kenny proposes Subcommittee to focus on support issues and street projects. Acting Chair Kenny volunteers to head this up.

- 3-B. Member of the public Carol Gottstein discusses trash services for those with disabilities. Alameda County Industries (ACI) has not emptied trash at her house consistently for ten months. City Staff Parker says she will take this specific issue up with ACI.

- 3-C. JoanAnn Radu-Sinaiko comments on the lack of resources for those with brain injuries, especially for those who are not senior citizens.

Commissioner Harp advises about Senior Center Without Walls, national program based in Berkeley, CA. that could be a resource.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- 4-A (Discussed above.)

- 4-B. Nomination and vote on Commission Chair, Vice-Chair

Chair Kenny proposes to postpone vote until 2016, since we do not have a full commission. All in favor. Motion carries.

- 4-C. Discussion on wording on Niel Tam's plaque, and bench dedication

"Dedicated In Memory of Nielson Tam.

Advocate and friend to people with disabilities.
– Commission on Disability Issues”

Discussion on language, bench location. Existing versus benches still needing to be placed.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

7. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

- 7-A. It was confirmed that this Commission will still have 9 seats, and there are currently 7 seated Commissioners and with two pending recommendations from the Mayor that will be voted for approval by the entire Council on Nov. 3rd.
- 7-B. Commissioners Lord-Hausman and Harp are still seated Commissioners until replaced by Council-voted appointments.
- 7-C. The City Manager’s offices would like the Commission to know the plug-in for the City’s website ADA improvements is currently being tested by the city’s web developer for integration into the city website. If all goes smoothly, it should go live by the end of October.
- 7-D. It was confirmed that this Commission will meet every other month. This will work out to be the even months in the year. February, April, June, August, October, December. Our next meeting will be in December.
- 7-E. Meeting in Conference Room 360 has posed some challenges regarding accessibility
 - City proposes to move meeting to Council Chambers
 - more accessible room
 - more comfortable chairs
 - microphones
 - meeting can be televised or otherwise recorded
 - one large presentation screen, small screens will be right in front of each Commissioner
 - listening devices
 - Council Chambers schedule:
 - 2nd Wednesdays – best option – Dec 9
 - Set Special Meeting, vote on this option
 - If so approved by the Commission, cancel regularly scheduled December 22 meeting.
 - City Staff Parker will set a special meeting for the proposed date in December, and the Commissioners can vote then to confirm the new meeting time. This also gives the option of choosing another date at that time.

7-F. Future Agenda Items

- Universal Design Ordinance, part 2
- Parker has been told listening devices in Council Chambers are less than ideal for the hearing impaired, and a member of the public, Susan Jeffries, will discuss them at the Commission's next meeting (in Dec)
- ARPD Accessibility Report
- Chair/Vice Chair vote – move to next year when full commission is seated

Commissioner Lewis would like announcements in Word format instead of Adobe Acrobat pdf format. City Staff Parker says she will accommodate this.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 8-A. Commissioner Lord-Hausman says there is a combination of agencies creating a visual message to portray inclusive community: "Everyone Belongs Here". Goal is to have all businesses, agencies, entities, can post posters in windows and in community locations. They are working on visual display and logo.
- 8-B. Commissioner Lord-Hausman mentions that Nielsen Tam's son Austin was a very big part of "Making the Invisible, Visible". They had an impressive and touching event last Saturday. Discussed how those with autism do not feel safe. Discussed that event addressed this issue, raised money, want to create foundation.
- 8-C. Commissioner Kenny would like everyone to know that Commissioner Lord-Hausman was recognized as Service Volunteer of the Year – nominated by 3 different people – for over 10 years of service.
- 8-D. Commissioner Kenny stated the wish to have the Commission conduct a retreat to discuss the business of being a Commissioner in January. Please look at available weekends.
- 8-E. Commissioner Harp mentioned that Housing Development Program Manager is conducting survey. Feels CDI would want to know and participate in this survey. Commissioner Harp will forward to City Staff Parker.
- 8-F. Commissioner Lord-Hausman would like to loop back to the Universal Design Ordinance, and would like to discuss further. Commission discusses setting up another workgroup. Discusses details of ordinance that should be addressed, types of buildings, developing a recommendation for Mr. Thomas. Raising percentage of units per development. Referring to the building code Chapter 11-A does seem to be ideal.
- 8-G. Commissioner Kenny received the Proclamation that October is the Disability Awareness Month
- 8-H. Member of the public JoanAnn Radu-Sinaiko asks if any of these documents from this meeting are available. City Staff Parker says she will attempt make any documents available to those who request them.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerry Parker

City Staff Liaison
Commission on Disability Issues