

APPROVED
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
MEETING MINUTES OF
May 27, 2008

TIME The meeting convened at 6:40 P.M.

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

ABSENT Vice-Chair Moore

MINUTES

The April 28, 2008 minutes were approved with the following correction: under Oral Communications/Non Agenda Items, item number four was edited to indicate that the non-working disabled handicap button is located outside and that additional changing tables should be installed in more than one of the library bathrooms to allow more space for the disabled.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There was no written communication.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Draft ADA Transition Plan Update (Lucretia Akil, ADA Coordinator; Jim Fruit, Project Manager, Sally Swanson Architects):

Lucretia Akil, ADA Coordinator/Board Secretary provided the introduction and overview of the City's draft ADA Transition Plan Update. Darrell Handy, Risk Manager, also participated in the presentation, informing the Commission of the goal and purpose of the community meeting, which was to address the access and facility improvements within the content of the plan and that specific questions or concerns regarding disability issues may be addressed and responded to separate from the meeting. Jim Fruit, Project Manager, Sally Swanson Architects (SSA), concluded the presentation of the Transition Plan with detailed review of the technical data contained in the facilities and public intersections reports of the Plan, as well as Federal and State laws of Title II ADA compliance with public agencies.

Secretary Akil informed the Commission that following tonight's community meeting and receiving specific input from the Commission, the Transition Plan Update would be taken to the City Council for final adoption based on recommendation from the Commission on Disability Issues.

Commissioner Berger asked what defines an individual with a qualified disability, to which Mr. Fruit replied that any person who has a physical or apparent disability would be considered to have a qualified disability.

Commissioner Berger asked if the same consulting firm (SSA) could be used for future updates to the Transition Plan to which Mr. Handy responded that the computer software that SSA offers would enable the City to update the Transition Plan on an annual basis via the ADA Coordinator (Lucretia Akil). The ADA Coordinator will attend the yearly Capital Improvement Program (CIP) kick-off meeting to ensure that ADA updates are included within future CIP projects.

Commissioner Berger asked about the sampling and new projects identified within the Transition Plan to which Secretary Akil responded that the City's Public Works Department staff are the managers of the CIP program and that she would ensure that those items identified be included with the annual CIP updated project lists.

Commissioner Longley-Cook asked if Tinker Avenue extension is part of the Transition Plan update to which Mr. Handy responded that Tinker is part of the future Planning of Alameda Point and is not included in the Plan update.

Commissioner Berger raised the inoperability of the Main Library disabled handicap button at the rear of the building to which Secretary Akil replied that particular item will be addressed directly with the Library Director and all other ADA accessible items identified in the Transition Plan have been repaired in the Main Library.

Commissioner Berger asked how are all accessibility issues handled such as ramps that may not work for everyone, to which Mr. Fruit replied that architectural accessibility is modeled on individuals who have moderate strength and are mobile. Architectural features do address certain linear feet issues; however, it becomes a personal choice of the individual in terms of traveling certain paths or distances across things such as ramps. Most of the population is covered through these architectural features based on the ADA.

Mr. Handy responded that many ramps are less taxing and more up to code than past years, but it does not always affect the length of the ramp and that is where personal choice would occur on whether or not one is willing to travel the distance of the ramp.

Commissioner Berger stated that hidden disabilities need to be addressed such as arthritis, to which Mr. Fruit responded that comes with aging. Commissioner Berger responded that perhaps more signage would be helpful to which Mr. Fruit replied that he could offer the ADA Coordinator information on "way-finding" to assist those with hidden disabilities.

Chair Lord-Hausman asked if there is one individual in the Public Works Department for the ADA Coordinator to work with to which Secretary Akil replied yes, Laurie Kozisek, Associate Civil Engineer who works directly with the Capital Improvement Project program in the City.

Commissioner Berger stated that since there is great detail in the Plan, what is the method of selecting a project, to which Mr. Fruit replied that the data consists of specific detail of each facility, so any decision to select a project would be based on the information and level of priority identified in the Transition Plan.

Commissioner Berger asked if any furnishings are included within the facilities reports of the Transition Plan update to which Mr. Fruit replied that only if the furnishing is fixed within the structure. Only then is the item addressed within each report of the Transition Plan. If the item is loose or not affixed to the facility, then there is no reasonable accommodation that needs to be addressed under any disability issue as the item can be moved from one place to another.

Commissioner Kirola thanked City staff and the consultant for all the work that went into the project recognizing that it was a difficult task. The finished project is much appreciated.

Chair Lord-Hausman confirmed that the Public Works Department also participated in the Transition Plan update.

Chair Lord-Hausman asked what type of Federal and grant funding would the City be able to draw upon in order to fund the various ADA improvements to which Mr. Fruit replied that it would probably consist of road and gas tax, which is apportioned by population. Those funds must be used for specific earmarks such as street surfacing, curb ramp improvements, intersection, etc. as they are obligated by the State. Other possible funding could be redevelopment funding, which could include street, electrical and sidewalk improvements.

Commissioner Robinson asked about receiving fees from developers to which Mr. Fruit replied that if an agency chooses to tax a developer, it becomes difficult and the City may not attract developers to work on projects within the City, or the costs could actually be offset onto the City under construction costs.

Mr. Handy stated that the ADA Transition Plan projects are integrated within the CIP program. ADA projects will get done as other projects are completed within the City's CIP program, such as sidewalk and street repairs, which must be ADA compliant with any improvements. Everything that is built and designed will be ADA compliant as the City's overall commitment to the Transition Plan is a priority for the City Council. As the ADA Coordinator, Ms. Akil will ensure that this happens as often as the CIP program is updated.

Chair Lord-Hausman stated that the ADA Transition Plan is a good living document and that any hidden disability resulting from aging will evolve with the Plan and be addressed over years.

Commissioner Berger stated that she is very impressed with the Plan.

There were no other comments received from the public or commission.

Chair Lord-Hausman motioned to recommend that the Commission forward the draft ADA Transition Plan Update to the City Council for final adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Longley-Cook and passed with the following vote: Ayes – 6; Nay – 0; Abstain – 0.

Secretary Akil, Mr. Handy and Mr. Fruit thanked the Commission for their input and recommendation.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for discussion.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Commission on Disability Internet Link (Chair Lord-Hausman/Secretary Akil):

Secretary Akil provided updated information to the Commission regarding the addition of an accessibility link onto the City's website. The City is in the process of putting out an RFQ to re-vamp the current website and that process will not be finalized before fall. With costs escalating and the current budget problems facing the City, these factors will delay the start-up of this project along with the delay in overhauling the entire website. Secretary Akil stated that following the adoption of the City's budget, this item will be re-agendized for future discussion.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1. Chair Lord-Hausman confirmed that the 2008 dates for the summer Concert at the Cove events are June 13, July 11 and August 8. Commissioner Longley-Cook will represent the Commission on June 13 and Commissioner Berger, August 8. Chair Lord-Hausman stated that she would confirm who would be in attendance for the July 11 event.
2. Commissioner Kreitz provided information regarding the Bike Plan Task Force committee. The committee has not yet formally met as the first meeting had to be rescheduled, but she will keep the Commission updated as they meet.
3. Commissioner Berger requested that the members of the CDI be given another tour of the Alameda Theatre now that it is open to the public. Secretary Akil stated that she would check

with the former Project Manager to determine if the request can be accommodated.

4. Commissioner Berger asked that Vice-Chair Jodi Moore's absence from the Commission be addressed at a future meeting. Chair Lord-Hausman responded that Jodi has had some personal challenges, however, she will contact her to discuss going forward with the Commission.
5. Commissioner Longley-Cook stated that the Peanut Butter and Jam Festival and Alameda Hospital Health Fair's are approaching and wanted to confirm the Commission's participation. Chair Lord-Hausman stated that she will contact the hospital regarding the date and follow up with Commissioner Kreitz regarding her progress on the Master Calendar of events for the Commission.

Commissioner Kirola suggested the CDI's participation in the Art and Wine Fair on Park Street to which Chair Lord-Hausman responded that the Commission should agree to participate in events with the most chance of exposure. The Chair will contact Jackie Krause, Manager of the Mastick Senior Center regarding a possibility of co-partnering with the CDI for community events.

6. Chair Lord-Hausman stated that the disabled spot on Everett and Park Street has been painted.
7. Chair Lord-Hausman read an article from the National Federation of the Blind concerning the consequence of operating the energy-saving hybrid and electric cars that are so quiet, pedestrians often cannot hear their approach. The Federation is proposing legislation.
8. Chair Lord-Hausman requested that the parking/re-stripping along Central Avenue in front of the AUSD office and high school be agendaized for future discussion since up to three disabled parking spaces are gone due to the elimination of diagonal parking to parallel parking.
9. Commissioner Berger stated that she had not received a response from the Alameda Civic Lighthouse Opera (ACLO) regarding the removal of disabled parking.
10. Chair Lord-Hausman stated that she received an invitation for the Commission to participate on the Alameda County Developmental Disability Council. The Chair acknowledged that this is positive recognition for the Commission to be on their distribution list.
11. Commissioner Berger stated that she would like for the Commission to invite a representative from the College of Alameda to discuss parking for students with disabilities.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, June 23, 2008, at 6:30 P.M. in Room 360 at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucretia A. Akil
Commission Secretary