

**CITY OF FRESNO
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

APPROVED - MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2009 MEETING

DAC Commission Members Present: Lillian Fillpot, Vice Chair, Mary Beth Randall, Ron Sheppard, Darby Greer

DAC Commission Members Absent: Russell Hoeltzer

Staff Present: Carlos Duarte, *ex officio* DAC member, Elizabeth Kunz, DAC Secretary, Greg Eisner, Transit Operations Manager, Department of Transportation, Ken Hamm, Director, Department of Transportation.

Call to Order and Self Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the February 9, 2009 Meeting Minutes, was made by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Randall, and unanimously approved.

Unscheduled Communication

Annette Carter requested that materials that will be voted on should be provided to the public in advance of the Disability Advisory Commission (DAC) meetings, indicating that this included draft minutes, and stating that because of her disability, she needed additional time to read the minutes using her computer.

Vice Chair Fillpot requested that staff respond. Secretary Kunz stated that she had been advised to ensure compliance with the Brown Act, that materials be provided to both the public and Commission at the DAC meetings when possible. Member Randall indicated that advanced copies of the minutes would be helpful to her as well. Vice Chair Fillpot advised that providing advanced copies may not be required, but directed staff to develop a solution that accommodates both Ms. Carter and staff needs.

Dr. Ed Eames informed the Commission that on March 24, 2009, the City Council would be reconsidering a developer's request that it approve a development without sidewalks on both sides of the street; he urged the Commission members to attend the meeting.

Member Sheppard commended the community of Fresno and the Extreme Makeover program, and urged the DAC to advocate for a continuance of such efforts.

Identification of Goals for FY 09

Vice Chair Fillpot opened discussion for goals. Member Randall advised that a statement of goals had not been previously distributed to the Commission by the Secretary.

Vice Chair Fillpot reported that for employment goals, she and Member Hoeltzer will work on trying to place students between 16 – 25 years of age in City employment; she invited individuals interested in increasing employment for individuals with all disabilities to the meeting of the Central Valley Mayors' Committee for the Partnership and Advocacy of People with Disabilities.

Member Greer presented the following goals in the area of education:

1. To examine the causes of transience/homelessness and its impact on the attendance and graduation rates of students with disabilities.
2. Examine other issues that lead to lower graduation rates for students with disabilities when compared to their peers and strategize to improve their educational opportunities.
3. Bolster the efforts of other agencies that focus on successful transition of students with disabilities to post secondary education and employment.
4. Support the efforts of Fresno Unified to hire and maintain the employment of qualified professionals needed to provide therapeutic services so students with disabilities can meet their educational goals. This extends also to the efforts of CSUF to matriculate graduate students in these professions.

Member Duarte provided goals of informing and educating citizens of their rights and responsibilities in the areas of access to infrastructure, employment, transportation, and cultural and linguistic diversity.

Vice Chair Fillpot read the following goals for accessibility and transportation:

1. Developing a marketing campaign, encouraging people with disabilities to take advantage of and utilize the services of the community of Fresno.
2. Work with the Chamber of Commerce in developing an accessibility program and standards for retail establishments.
3. Reinforce efforts of existing subcommittees to enhance accessibility of public transportation and community right-of-way.
4. Continue providing education with bus drivers as well as the public on using transportation.

Member Randall added that she also has a goal of working with the City to provide additional Accessible Pedestrian Signals at crosswalks for persons with disabilities.

Vice Chair Fillpot made a vote on the motion to accept these goals as presented. Member Sheppard seconded it. There being no further discussion, the stated motion was adopted as presented.

Discussion of Bylaws for Standing Committees

Member Randall requested that the DAC vote on the draft bylaws provided for the FAX Advisory Committee and the ADA Advisory Council. Member Duarte suggested the DAC create a task force to review the bylaws, and compare them to model bylaws for other City bodies. Discussion ensued. Member Greer requested copies of the FAX Advisory Committee bylaws distributed at the last meeting.

The Vice Chair opened the floor to public comment.

Annette Carter indicated that she had some suggestions for the bylaws and requested that both be placed on the agenda for vote at the next meeting.

Fare Structure for Handy Ride and Fixed Route

Mr. Ken Hamm addressed the Commission regarding the significant reductions in transit funding from State and Federal funding sources, while ridership has increased; explained that the City is considering a new fare structure to preserve service retain State funding; and added that the FAX rates are currently well below those of the market. Mr. Hamm indicated that the process for developing this new fare structure would take place with public input. Mr. Hamm then responded to questions from the Commissioners regarding special rider passes, the taxi script program and fares at similar-sized agencies.

Vice Chair Fillpot accepted public comment.

Carol Casey Zaun inquired as to whether the rate change would affect the Senior 7 program. Dorothy Hoefling inquired as to the next opportunity to thank drivers.

Adjournment

There being no further business to bring before the Commission, the hour of 6:30 pm having arrived and hearing no objection, Vice Chair Fillpot declared the meeting adjourned.