

**CITY OF FRESNO
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

APPROVED - MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2009 MEETING

DAC Commission Members Present: Robert Hand, Chair, Lillian Fillpot, Vice Chair, Ron Sheppard, Michelle Bronson, Rachelle Taylor, Carlos Duarte (*ex officio*)

Staff Present: Elizabeth Kunz, DAC Secretary, Gary Eberhard, Emergency Preparedness Officer, Darrell Unruh, Planning & Development Planning Manager, Israel Trejo, Planning & Development Planning Planner III, Sylvia Shelton, Public Works Services Aide

Call to Order and Self Introductions were made. Commissioners welcomed Rachelle Taylor as a new member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Annette Carter requested that the words “for the disabled” be replaced with “for persons with disabilities” in the June 8, 2009 Meeting Minutes.

On motion of Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Fillpot, duly carried, the minutes of June 8, 2009, approved as amended.

MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Chair Hand stated that the state budget would affect everyone. The Department of Rehab has stopped all expenditures. This crisis could also affect the action of the Commission if it affects the City. Chair Hand reported that on September 25, 2009, the Center for Disability Innovation and Center for Independent Living will put on the Second Annual Western Region Disability Conference at the Radisson. The 33rd Annual Dinner for C.I.L. Fresno will be held that same evening.

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Member Fillpot added that at the Second Annual Western Region Disability Conference, the Central Valley Mayor's Committee will be providing a luncheon.

Chair Hand reminded the Commissioners that election of officers would be held at the next meeting in September.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Kunz reported that the City's Parking Enforcement Division, working with the Department of Motor Vehicle Investigators, did a sweep of the downtown area one morning for three hours looking for unauthorized use of handicap placards. Two hundred customers were contacted, 30 seemed questionable, and out of those 30, 15 were cited for unauthorized use. The Parking Division received positive feedback from people during the sweep and they appreciate the support of the DAC in this endeavor.

UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATION

Annette Carter reported that Carol Zaun was unable to attend the DAC Meeting tonight because of an unexpected difficulty. Ms. Carter indicated that Ms. Zaun would like a tape of the meeting. Ms. Carter also requested audio tapes for the May and June meetings for herself. She suggested items for the September Agenda: (1) A discussion of the Fresno City ADA Toolkit for resources; (2) Brainstorming of how people/entities can work collaboratively to get residents from Clovis to Fresno City Hall for DAC Meetings since the City of Clovis has eliminated some transit services; and (3) A report on how many people are on the electronic list to send out Agenda/Minutes/Materials Packet.

DISCUSSION ITEM: REPORT ON JUNE 19, 2009 TRANSPORTATION WORKING GROUP MEETING – LILLIAN FILLPOT

Member Fillpot reported that 31 or 32 people attended the June 19, 2009 Transportation Working Group Meeting where the strengths and weaknesses of the transportation system were gathered from the

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attendees and discussed. Recommendations will be presented to the Commission at a later DAC Meeting.

PRESENTATION BY THE CITY OF FRESNO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OFFICER, GARY EBERHARD

Gary Eberhard introduced himself to the Commission and expressed concerns with transportation for persons with disabilities, special needs, and senior populace in emergency/disaster situations. He would like to work closely with the Commission on what direction to go with these concerns.

Commission members welcomed Gary Eberhard to the City and look forward to working closely with him.

DISCUSSION ITEM: UPDATE ON THE UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARK, POLK AND GETTYSBURG – MEMBER SHEPPARD

Member Sheppard reported that he attended a meeting on June 30, 2009 regarding the Universally Accessible Park planned for Polk and Gettysburg. This will be an 8-acre regional park. Two million dollars in funding has been secured and another \$720,000 recently received to build the park, but it will take about \$8 million to \$9 million to build the park that is fully accessible. The City is going to apply for approximately \$5million through the Prop 84 fund.

DISCUSSION ITEM: CITY OF FRESNO POLICY REGARDING SIDEWALKS IN PRIVATE, GATED COMMUNITIES

Darrell Unruh, Planning & Development Planning Manager, and Israel Trejo, Planning & Development Planning Planner III, presented the Initial Preliminary Draft Sidewalk Policy Implementation Guidelines and requested endorsement of this policy by the DAC. Mr. Trejo provided information on sidewalk policies from other municipalities. Discussion ensued, during which Member Duarte expressed concerns regarding the safety of persons with disabilities sharing the path of travel with vehicles in these areas. Member Sheppard clarified that this was not an issue relevant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), but was a question of City policy. Member Taylor suggested that this item be tabled for a future meeting until

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questions regarding the exceptions could be addressed and the Commission could review additional information from Planning and Development Department.

ACTION ITEM: ENDORSEMENT OF CITY OF FRESNO POLICY REGARDING SIDEWALKS IN PRIVATE, GATED COMMUNITIES

Jeff Roberts, of Granville Homes, addressed the Commission and indicated that the City's interpretation of its General Plan has changed, stating most gated communities have been developed without sidewalks, and due to the traffic counts being lower in those areas, they are safe environments for pedestrians and vehicles to share the same path of travel.

Annette Carter spoke to Mr. Robert's presentation, and indicated that she has reviewed the draft policy, feels it is good and would approve it.

Member Taylor made a motion to table this item, Member Sheppard seconded the motion, and it carried.

DISCUSSION ITEM: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COF MUNICIPAL CODE TO ENSURE ACCESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Secretary Kunz reviewed the changes to the City's Municipal Code. One correction would be to remove the word "motorized" in Sections 6 and 8 of the Code. Discussion followed.

ACTION ITEM: RECOMMEND CHANGES TO THE COF MUNICIPAL CODE TO ENSURE ACCESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Annette Carter asked for verification that the word "motorized" would be removed from Section 6 and 8. She questioned Section 2 where a person making a mark needs two signatures.

Brief discussion ensued. Member Sheppard made a motion to approve the COF Municipal Code changes as presented. Member Taylor seconded the motion and it passed.

Bob reminded the Commission that they approved the Annual DAC Achievement Award and the document is available on the DAC webpage to make nominations. Nominations are due by August 31st.

Annette Carter suggested that the “footer” in the Achievement Award document be provided in 14 pt.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before the Commission, the hour of 7:00 p.m. having arrived and hearing no objection, Member Sheppard made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Member Bronson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.