

**CITY OF FRESNO
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 12, 2009 MEETING

DAC Commission Members Present: Robert Hand, Chair, Ron Sheppard, Michelle Bronson, Mary Beth Randall, Carlos Duarte (*ex officio*)

Staff Present: Elizabeth Kunz, DAC Secretary, Sylvia Shelton, Public Works Services Aide

Call to Order and Self Introductions were made.

Chair Hand advised that Agenda item #5 (Presentation: Psychiatric Service Animal Awareness) was cancelled because the presenter was unable to attend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Bronson, duly carried, the minutes of September 14, 2009 were approved.

MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Chair Hand reported that he, Elizabeth Kunz and Member Taylor attended the October 1, 2009 City of Fresno Council Meeting to (1) participate in the presentation of the first DAC Achievement Awards to Dr. Ed Eames (individual) and LARCS (organization) and (2) accept the Proclamation for October's Disability Awareness Month from the City in the name of the DAC. Chair Hand also advised that Russ Hoeltzer has resigned from the DAC, leaving an opening on the Commission.

UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATION

Rick Steitz, spoke and identified himself as the President of Amalgamated Transit Union, representing Fresno City bus drivers, para-transit drivers, as well as employees in the City of Tulare; quoted US Department of Transportation regulations stating that paratransit service must be provided “through the same hours and days as the provider’s fixed route service;” and stated that no transportation was provided to the para-transit community for the Fresno State home football games in 2008 and first game in 2009. Mr. Steitz indicated that this was in violation of federal law, and that he filed a grievance against the City of Fresno para-transit division on this issue. Chair Hand thanked Mr. Steitz for the information and indicated that the matter could be added to the next DAC Meeting Agenda.

Michael Sigala, with Sigala, Inc., invited the DAC members to a community meeting regarding an affordable senior housing project in Fresno on Friday, October 23, 2009, at 10:00 a.m.

DISCUSSION ITEM: ROUNDABOUT TASK FORCE REPORT

The Roundabout Task Force (Members Sheppard, Randall and Duarte) presented a written report, which was discussed at length. Chair Hand proposed that the DAC’s recommendations include wording to the effect that there is no present system that can make roundabouts as safe for pedestrians as signal lights, but if the City is going to proceed with them, then the City should include specific safety-oriented features for pedestrians with disabilities. Chair Hand indicated that the DAC may provide specific recommendations at a later point in time.

Secretary Kunz requested a clarification, and asked whether the recommendations made by the DAC would include all in the written report. Chair Hand specified that he would also like “rumble strips” included.

Member Sheppard recommended flashing lights at roundabouts; Member Duarte recommended that roundabouts be one lane.

Member Randall recommended that all recommendations on the draft report be included, and that roundabouts be one lane or, if two lanes, include an Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS).

ACTION ITEM: DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING USE OF ROUNDABOUTS IN THE CITY OF FRESNO

Chair Hand summarized the discussion. Member Randall made a motion to adopt a revised statement that included the recommendations as outlined in the Roundabout Task Force Report, that includes recommendations for rumble strips, single lane roundabouts or pedestrian-activated Accessible Pedestrian Signal if more than a single lane be included.

Ron Sheppard seconded the motion and it passed.

DISCUSSION ITEM: REVIEW OF REQUIREMENT FOR SIDEWALK ON BOTH SIDES OF STREET IN ALL RESIDENTIAL STREETS

Israel Trejo presented an updated Draft Sidewalk Policy to the DAC for their review and recommendation. The policy was discussed at length.

ACTION ITEM: IF APPROPRIATE, DEVELOP A POSITION STATEMENT. DECIDE IF THE DAC WISHES TO ADVISE THE CITY COUNCIL ON DAC'S POSITION ON DISCUSSION ITEM ABOVE

Member Sheppard made a motion that the Draft Sidewalk Policy be accepted with the addition to 1a that all of the access plans or walkways would meet state and federal accessibility requirements and focus on the universal accessibility of the walkways. Member Bronson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the abstention of Member Randall.

DISCUSSION ITEM: REPORT ON JUNE 19, 2009 TRANSPORTATION WORKING GROUP MEETING, MEMBER FILLPOT/MEMBER RANDALL

A written report from the June 19, 2009 DAC Workgroup on Transportation was presented. Chair Hand suggested that FAX be

invited to attend a future meeting to report on the progress of the recommended areas of improvement.

PRESENTATION: UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARK

This item was postponed to a future DAC Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before the Commission, the hour of 6:21 p.m. having arrived and hearing no objection, Member Randall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Member Bronson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.