

**CITY OF FRESNO
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

APPROVED - MINUTES OF THE MARCH 8, 2010 MEETING

DAC Commission Members Present: Michelle Bronson, Mary Beth Randall, Jenelle Pitt, Ron Sheppard, Dorothy Young, Carlos Duarte (*ex officio*)

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

Call to Order and Self Introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Member Randall, seconded by Member Sheppard, duly carried, the minutes of February 8, 2010 were approved.

MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Member Sheppard encouraged the Commission members to read an article in The Fresno Bee regarding increased enforcement activity by the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights.

Member Randall reported there was an article in The Fresno Bee regarding the use of “quiet cars” in neighborhoods. These cars would present a particular problem for the blind or visually impaired. This issue will be put on a later agenda.

Chair Hand mentioned he will be attending a State Rehabilitation Council Meeting in Sacramento on March 9, 2010. He also reported that the Western Region Disability Conference is scheduled for November 4-5, 2010.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Jenelle Pitt, an Assistant Professor at California State University Fresno, introduced herself and stated she has been in the field of rehabilitation counseling for over ten years, first as a student, then as a practitioner in both the public and non-profit sectors, and now as an educator. Her service in the disability community has been at local and national levels.

Dorothy Young introduced herself, stating she has a PhD in clinical psychology and is semi-retired. She had a private practice for 23 years in Fresno and has taught at California State University Fresno, Fresno City College, National University, and other venues. She is currently working with Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS Association), leads a monthly support group and is a Regional Coordinator for Services for ALS patients, leads a support group for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and sees private patients in their homes.

UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATION

Manual Valdez addressed the Commission and expressed his displeasure with a recent Handy Ride experience. Chair Hand offered to put Mr. Valdez in contact with someone at Resources for Independence who can help him work with Handy Ride to resolve the problems. His contact information was also obtained so a representative from Handy Ride can contact Mr. Valdez.

PRESENTATION: THE UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARK (UAP)

Irma Yopez-Perez, PARCS Grant Writer, gave an in-depth PowerPoint presentation on the planning of a Universally Accessible Park (UAP) at Polk and Gettysburg. The park will have a total of 8 acres and will be accessible to persons with special needs. The project is scheduled for completion in September of 2011.

Members Duarte, Sheppard, and Bronson expressed their approval and enthusiasm for this project.

REPORT: Public Relations/Outreach Task Force

Member Sheppard reported on this task force which met to develop ideas on how to involve the public on issues affecting the disability community. The task force recommended that the DAC develop educational meetings/workshops, inviting people from the public or private sectors to present on a specific issue.

A recommended list of topics may include, but not be limited to, Transportation, Mental Health, Disability and Public Safety/Victimization, Emergency Preparedness, Employment and Education of People with Disabilities, Food Insecurity and People with Disabilities, Volunteer Opportunities for People with Disabilities, Cultural Awareness, and Disabled Veterans.

ACTION ITEM: DETERMINE WHETHER THE COMMISSION SHOULD IMPLEMENT A SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS ON ISSUES AFFECTING THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY

Member Randall made a motion that the ideas from the task force be implemented. Member Young seconded the motion and it passed.

ACTION ITEM: IF APPROPRIATE PER ITEM #8, DEVELOP A LIST OF POTENTIAL MEETING TOPICS

Following discussion of this action item, Chair Hand stated that since the Commission has approved the list of items, a vote is not necessary. He recommended that the next meeting in April be on Transportation.

Member Sheppard made a motion that the April Meeting focus on transportation and the needs of people with disabilities in the community. Member Randall seconded the motion and it passed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before the Commission, the hour of 6:40 pm having arrived and hearing no objection, Member

Randall made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Member Bronson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.