

**CITY OF FRESNO
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

UNAPPROVED - MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2010 MEETING

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

Staff Present: Elizabeth Kunz, DAC Secretary

1. Call to Order

Call to Order and Self Introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes

Member Randall motioned to approve the August minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Member Bronson, and carried.

3. Member Reports and Comments

Member Bronson announced that September 20-24, 2010 is Deaf Awareness Week. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC) will have activities all week, including Deaf Trivia, and information about Deaf Culture and ASL. These events are open to the public.

Chair Hand announced the Resources for Independence Central Valley (RICV) annual dinner on October 1, 2010, and indicated that individuals interested in attending could order tickets at www.ricv.org.

Member Randall announced that October was disability awareness month. She also announced that the local chapter of the California Council of the Blind (CCB) was having a dinner on October 1, 2010; this event will allow participants to be “temporarily blind” for the evening to raise awareness of blindness issues. Member Randall also stated that she had sweepstakes tickets for sale to benefit the state-level CCB organization.

4. Unscheduled Communication

None.

5. Action Item: Selection of Officers

Member Bronson nominated Member Taylor for the position of Chair. Member Sheppard seconded the nomination, and the motion passed.

Member Sheppard nominated Member Bronson for the position of Vice Chair. Member Randall seconded the nomination and the motion passed.

Chair Hand noted that Member Taylor was not at tonight's meeting, so may choose to decline the position. Secretary Kunz noted that Member Taylor was unable to attend this DAC meeting because she has developed a scheduling conflict with the current DAC meeting time. Chair Hand stated that the discussion of a new meeting time needs to be placed on the agenda for the next DAC meeting.

6. Action Item: Selection of Recipients of the 2010 Disability Advisory Commission Award

Chair Hand suggested that this item be tabled until the October meeting, as his organization was nominated for an organization award. If he were to recuse himself, the DAC would be left without a quorum to take action on the issue. In addition, Member Bronson nominated the President of DHHSC's Board for an individual award, which may not be a conflict, but Member Bronson may also wish to recuse herself.

Member Randall made a motion to table this item until the October DAC meeting. Member Bronson seconded it. The motion passed with no abstentions.

7. Action Item: Reconsider DAC position on Policy E-1-o of the 2025 Fresno General Plan as it relates to sidewalk requirements on private streets

Mary Savala, from the League of Women Voters, addressed the Commission, requesting it reconsider its position of support for Policy E-1-o of the 2025 general plan. She described her involvement with the

development of this policy. Ms. Savala responded to Member Sheppard's question at the last DAC meeting by indicating that sidewalks on both sides of the street are considered mitigation for the environmental impact report for the City's general plan.

Chair Hand said that the DAC had approved several drafts of the policy, but that the version submitted to City Council included new language.

Israel Trejo, of the City's Development and Resource Management Department, briefly reviewed the history of the draft policies, indicating that the DAC had seen three different versions of the policy, and each subsequent version had incorporated the DAC's feedback. Mr. Trejo stated that the exceptions to sidewalk on both sides of the street include those served by a pedestrian access route that meet State and Federal standards for accessibility, and streets less than 200 ft in length and serving a maximum of ten lots.

Mr. Trejo indicated that the main difference between the proposal submitted to the DAC and the City Council were an added clarification that sidewalks would be required where private streets intersection with private streets, and a provision that projects with a tentative tract map and approved conditional use permit (CUP) would not be subject to the policy.

Chair Hand asked Mr. Trejo what the City's normal practice was when a policy changes after the tract map and CUP has been improved. Mr. Trejo indicated that there have been zoning policy changes where existing agreements have been honored despite the new policy. Mr. Trejo stated he could not speak to all similar circumstances.

Member Duarte commented that he believed the DAC should not reconsider the policy. Member Sheppard concurred.

Ms. Savala spoke to the nature of the CUP agreement and concerns about allowing exemptions to sidewalk requirements.

Member Randall spoke to the importance of sidewalks for people with disabilities. Member Bronson concurred, and stressed their importance for families. Chair Hand asked whether there was a motion to reconsider the DAC position on Policy E-1-o. No motion was made.

8. Presentation: Eyeing Respect Campaign

Member Duarte introduced a program from Oregon Supported Living Program and Full Access called “Look Me in the Eye” which focuses on the positive aspects of people with disabilities. Member Duarte read from a proclamation signed by nine Mayors as part of the program, and spoke to the need for a program to break down attitudinal barriers which limit communication with people with disabilities. Member Duarte expressed an interest in the DAC pursuing a similar program through a task force.

Chair Hand reminded the DAC that last meeting, the DAC received a request for a public awareness campaign for service animals. He indicated there was an item on the agenda to establish a task force to address this request and that of Member Duarte, and bring a recommendation back to the DAC.

Member Sheppard spoke to the need to emphasize the gifts and common humanity of individuals, citing video on leadership featuring an individual with a disability who demonstrated great wisdom. Member Sheppard emphasized the need to look at people’s gifts and draw them out, demonstrating people’s accomplishments despite their disabilities.

Member Randall commended the article presented by Member Duarte. She indicated that it could assist in the development of a positive attitude toward people with and without disabilities.

Member Bronson spoke to experience of the Deaf community, and indicated the importance of responding to stares or questions as an opportunity to educate others about Deaf culture and American Sign Language (ASL).

9. Action Item: Formation of a task force for public awareness campaign(s)

Member Randall moved to form a public awareness campaign task force. Member Bronson seconded the motion.

Chair Hand asked for public comment. Carol Casey Zaun stated that she was very interested in this topic and would be willing to help the effort.

Chair Hand took a vote and the motion passed without abstention or opposition.

Chair Hand appointed Members Duarte and Randall to the Task Force, and suggested they could ask non-commission members to join them, such as Ms. Zaun.

10. Adjournment

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