



Commission on Disability

Commission on Disability ACTION MINUTES

Regular Meeting

September 21, 2016

North Berkeley Senior Center
Workshop B
1901 Hearst Avenue (at MLK)
Berkeley, CA 94709

A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1) Call to Order:

Commissioner Martha Singer (Chair) called the meeting to order at approximately 7:35 PM. The Secretary for the COD was on an approved vacation. The Deputy Director who offered to attend the meeting on her behalf missed the meeting. As such, the staff backup for the Deputy Director arrived late.

2) Roll Call:

Present: Commissioners Graham; Murray, Singer (Chair), Upadhyay; Walsh, Weiss (Vice Chair)

Absent: Leeder (L/A)

Staff: Kenneth Emeziem (Ken), Acting COD Secretary, Office of Access Services

3) Public Comment:

Speaker - Mary Richerson regarding sidewalk safety issues and vegetation overgrowth.

4) Approval of Minutes:

ACTION: It was M/S/C (Weiss/Upadhyay) to approve the draft minutes of the July 20, 2016 regular meeting as amended. Commissioner Weiss will make corrections on the minutes and submit to the secretary.

Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

5) Approval and Order of Agenda:

ACTION: It was M/S/C (Weiss/Murray) to allow Chair Singer to revise the order of the Agenda as the Chair deemed appropriate.

Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

6) Update by Administration/Staff: Staff mentioned that Ms. Carmella Rejwan, COD Secretary, is on vacation until October 3, 2016. As such, he is filling in for her until she returns.

7) Announcements: None

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

1. Universal Design/Visitability in Berkeley –

The Commission's report went to Council on September 20, 2016.

No Action taken.

2. Portable Sign Pilot program –

The Commission's report is tentatively scheduled to go to Council together with the Transportation Commission report on October 18, 2016. Staff is waiting for Transportation commission to complete their report.

No Action taken.

3. Schedule for Commission Meetings –

ACTION: It was M/S/C (Weiss/Murray) to cancel the Commission meetings of October 19, 2016 and November 16, 2016 and schedule Special Meetings on October 5, 2016 and November 2, 2016.

Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

4. Center Street parking garage –

Commissioner Weiss mentioned that at the September 13, 2016, City Council meeting, Council moved item #43a to Consent Calendar but did not move item #43b. She mentioned that Item #43a was approved with further discussion.

The commission discussed tracking issues associated with the old Center Street Parking Garage. The commission asked staff to explain how tracking is done and how to improve tracking for the new garage to ensure a more accurate tracking method.

ACTION: It was M/S/C (Walsh/Murray) to ask staff for a plan of how to determine utilization and if additional disabled parking spaces are warranted on the street and at the garage.

Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

5. Results of City Council Referral Prioritization process –

- There were several discussions including how the prioritization process will affect staff work-plan in future.
- The commission discussed revising the current City Council item template to include a section which could be a single line to address impact of the proposed project on persons with disabilities and others.

No Action taken.

6. Bikes on Sidewalk/Signage -

ACTION: It was M/S/C (Graham/Weiss) to approve and submit a Council item about recommendation to promote bicycle safety.

Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

7. Community Health Commission Proposal for African American Resource Center in Berkeley--

ACTION: It was M/S/C (Weiss/Murray) to support Community Health Commission's concept for an African American Resource Center in Berkeley and look forward to more information about accessibility resources and inclusion of persons with disabilities in planning and programming.

Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

8. City of Berkeley ADA and access services office status –

- COD discussed the correct name and mentioned that the new name is Office of Access Services. It was formerly known as Disability Access Program.
- Commissioner Weiss mentioned how important it is to record the COD meetings. In the past, she has requested reasonable accommodation together with at least another commissioner. Also, she reminded staff that the City should provide reasonable accommodation when requested.
- Staff informed the COD that the City has purchased a new recording device. The new Disability Specialist will utilize the device to record meetings beginning next year since COD does not meet in December and the new staff will start work after November 2, 2016.
- Commissioners Weiss & Walsh mentioned that at the September 13, 2016 Council meeting, Mr. Phil Harrington, Director of Public Works said that he would like one of the Commissioners to serve on interview panel to select Disability Coordinator Specialist.
- Commissioner Murray mentioned that it is important for a member of COD to serve on the panel. It was discussed that whoever elects to serve on the panel has to be ready to spend the entire day as required by the City's Human Resources office for such interview panels. Staff will inquire from the Director.

No Action taken

9. Service Animals Welcome -

COD asked staff to ensure that the annual mailing packet from the City to Berkeley based businesses included the information about service animals.

No Action taken

C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - None

D. COMMUNICATIONS - None

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –

Chair Singer will send next meeting Agenda items to Ken.

F. ADJOURNMENT –

It was M/S/C (Murray/Upadhyay) to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM.

Motion carried (6-0-0-0)

Public Present: 1 Total Speakers: 0

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Minutes on the web:

[http://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/Commissions/Commissions Commission on Disability Homepage.aspx](http://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/Commissions/Commissions_Commission_on_Disability_Homepage.aspx)