



Commission on Disability Minutes re October 11, 2023 Meeting

Preliminary Matters

1. Call to order at 5:22pm
2. Land acknowledgment read recognizing Berkeley as the ancestral, unceded home of the Ohlone People.
3. Roll Call
Present: Chair Fischer, Commissioner Pugh, and Commissioner Sun.
Absent: Commissioner Lewkowicz.
On a Leave of Absence: Vice-Chair Walsh.
Staff present: Thomas Gregory and Guillermo Campos.
Public present: Ben Gould, Carole Marasovic, and Anonymous.
4. Public Comments:
 - a. Ben Gould spoke about plans for an upcoming citizens' ballot initiative to improve City streets, sidewalks, and other public rights-of-way via a parcel tax; Ben invites all interested constituents to contact him at ben@bengould.org.
 - b. Carole Marasovic spoke of the need for staff at the City's various shelter sites (and, for that matter, staff everywhere) to effectively serve clients who are illiterate and/or who have cognitive disabilities, providing reasonable accommodations as appropriate.
5. Approval of draft minutes for September 13, 2023 meeting
"...to approve the September 13 meeting's minutes."
Moved by: Chair Fischer; seconded by: Commissioner Pugh.
Yeas: unanimous; nays: none.
Motion passes.
6. Approval and Order of Agenda
"...to approve the October draft agenda as is."
Moved by: Chair Fischer; seconded by: Commissioner Sun.
Yeas: unanimous; nays: none.
Motion passes.

Staff Updates

7. Updates
 - a. Regarding the 6/8/23 entry of the Complaints Log, Commissioners present wanted an ETA regarding when the Commissioners' Manual would be revised to be fully compatible with screen reading software and therefore in compliance with the ADA. The secretary told Commissioners that the City expected to make a revised version available by a not-yet-determined date in 2024. There was a consensus among Commissioners present that

this target was unacceptable as the document currently violates the ADA requirement that City web content be accessible to users of screen readers. In addition, since the remediation requires simply deleting already blacked out text this is a small task that should be done as soon as possible.

- b. Recent messages addressed to the Commission were considered and discussed.

Commissioner Reports/Announcements

8. Chair Fischer led discussion re follow-up communications with constituents who engage with the Commission.

Discussion/Action Items

9. Vote for desired 2024 Commission calendar.
“...that this Commission’s 2024 meeting schedule be: 2nd Wednesdays of the month (except for August and December) at 5pm at the North Berkeley Senior Center, in the Aspen Room if it’s available.”
Moved by: Chair Fischer; seconded by: Commissioner Sun.
Yeas: unanimous; nays: none.
Motion passes.
10. Commissioners discussed strategies for recruiting new CoD members.
11. Commissioners continued to discuss Work Plan objectives and strategies for achieving those objectives, including the need to timely book key guest presenters, both staff and non-staff, to provide CoD with info needed to effectively pursue Work Plan goals.

Commissioners adjourned at 7:45pm.

Minutes Approved by CoD vote on:

11/8/23



Thomas Gregory, Secretary to the Commission on Disability