



City of Surprise
Disability Advisory Commission
Wednesday, September 19, 2007 - 6:00 P.M.
Surprise City Hall – Council Chambers
12425 W. Bell Road, D-100
Surprise, Arizona 85374

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members Present:

Gustav Szvetits, Chairperson
Jim Olmsted, Vice-Chair
Wayne Nielsen
Barbara Porter
Ken Hill
Michelle Lewis
Scott Hjalmerik

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Michael Schrock, Director, Management/Budget
Jean Poe, Risk Manager
Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate

Staff Absent:

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Szvetits called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Surprise City Hall, Classroom, 12425 W. Bell Road, D-100, Surprise, Arizona 85374, on Wednesday, September 19, 2007.

2. **APPROVAL OF AUGUST 15, 2007 MINUTES**

Chairperson Szvetits called for approval of the August 15, 2007 minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Nielsen moved to accept the minutes as presented, second by Commissioner. Olmsted Motion approved 7-0.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sharon Atwood, from Radiant Church, reported that they are very supportive of the proposed January 12th Emergency Preparedness Summit. Their staff and volunteers are looking to be trained by a team from Joni and Friends on disability awareness so they are more prepared for this event.

Ms. Atwood also mentioned an upcoming Pet Partners event being held on October 6th at 6:30 pm.

4. **CURRENT EVENTS AND REPORTS**

Commissioner Lewis reported on a recent national event that involved DreamCatcher Park. The event, shown on the front page of Surprise Today, involved a man running 26 miles a day for 63 days in order to raise awareness for A-T (ataxia-telangiectasia).

Tim Borland, pushed local 6 year old resident Liam Cowand the last few laps before stopping at DreamCatcher Park.

Commissioner Hjalmervik reported on a program through Wal-Mart that allows employees to volunteer their time for an organization (25 hours over a 6 month period) then donates \$250 to it. Mr. Hjalmervik would like to donate his time to work related to the Commission then have the money donated to it. Mr. Schrock is checking into the feasibility of money being donated to the Commission.

Commissioner Szvetits brought in an article from the AZ Republic titled, "Tuning in to children's disabilities", dates 9/5/07. The article talked about a weekly radio program, aired Tuesdays on www.1510.com that focuses on children and adolescents who are affected by behavioral, emotional, neurological or social disabilities.

5. **AGENDA**

A. Report on the Roadrunner Basketball Team – Commissioner Hill

Commissioner Hill reported that the team is now practicing Saturdays and Sundays to help get ready for their Oct. 27th tournament in San Diego. The schedule still includes a local tournament on December 8-9, 2007 and Tucson is offering a tournament with the Roadrunners also.

B. Discussion and Possible Action on the Northwest Valley Inclusion Project– Commissioner Nielson

Upon request by Commission Nielson, Ms. Bowles reported on the success of the September 11th Chamber Breakfast presentation. As a result, 36 companies signed up for an ADA Index. Also, there is a discussion with the City of Surprise Webmaster to provide the Index information in an interactive format on the Disability Awareness website.

C. Report on New City Parks – Jean Poe, Risk Manager

Ms. Poe reported that, in the past she was involved with doing ADA walk-throughs before the city would take over parks. With a change in staff, this lapsed briefly but a new policy is now in place that would require the Disability Advocate to be a part of the TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) to assist in the review of parks under design. In addition the Disability Advocate will assist Community and Recreation Services in a walk-through before acceptance of a completed park.

D. Discussion and Possible Action on the Concept of Visitability – Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate

Ms. Bowles reported that she and Forrest Fielder attended a Visitability conference on August 16th. They learned of other communities that have passed similar ordinances to that of the unincorporated areas of Pima County. The difference is that most of these applied only to government subsidized housing. Mr. Fielder reported that, though the Southern Arizona Builders Association was not in support of the concept initially they did come around. Still, he believed that this is not a good time to proceed in the City of Surprise.

After comment by Commissioner Nielson, it was decided that a subcommittee would be formed to explore educating the public and builders on the concept of visitability.

MOTION: Commissioner Nielson motioned to have a committee formed to continue researching the concept of visitability with the focus being in the education of Home Builders. Second by Commissioner Olmsted. Passed 7-0.

E. Update on Executive Order for Accessibility Guidelines for City Facilities – Jean Poe, Risk Manager

Ms. Poe reported that the proposed Executive Order has gone through the Legal Department and modifications have been made based on their feedback. These related to statute clarification but nothing changed the overall recommendations for exceeding the ADA.

F. Update on the City of Surprise Citizens Corp Council – Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate

Ms. Bowles reported that the Surprise Citizens Corp Council approved holding an Emergency Preparedness Summit for Individuals with Disabilities on January 12, 2008. The event will be held at Radiant Church and include a general session and break out sessions.

G. Review of Strategic Plan and 2008 Action Plan – Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate

Ms. Bowles presented a slideshow to recap the four action items of the strategic plan. Each was reviewed in relation to the progress being made in the four areas. Future reports will be conducted on a quarterly basis.

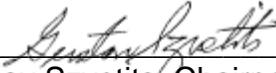
6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 17, 2007

Agenda items for the next meeting will include:

- Public Comments
- Current Events and Reports by Commissioners or Staff
- Presentation from Legal Department on Open Meeting Law
- Commissioner Hill's report on the Wheelchair Basketball Team
- Commissioner Nielsen's report on the Northwest Valley Inclusion Project
- Update on Executive Order for Higher Construction and/or Design Guidelines for City Facilities
- Report on the Citizen's Corp Council
- Discussion and Possible Action-combining the November and December Commission meetings

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Szvetits adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.



Gustav Szvetits, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate

CERTIFICATION:

I, Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate for the City of Surprise, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Disability Advisory Commission meeting held on **Wednesday, September 19, 2007.**



Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate