



City of Surprise
Disability Advisory Commission
Wednesday July 16, 2008 - 6:00 P.M.
Surprise City Hall – Council Chambers
12425 W. Bell Road, D-100
Surprise, Arizona 85374

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members Present:

Wayne Nielsen, Chairperson
Ken Hill, Vice-Chair
Scott Hjalmerik
Michelle Lewis
Tracy Smith
Jacob Taylor
Jane Williams

Staff Present:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Michael Schrock 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 July 16, 2008.

2. APPROVAL OF JUNE 18 , 2008 MINUTES

Michael Schrock called for approval of the June 18, 2008 minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Nielsen moved to accept the minutes as presented, second by Commissioner Hjalmerik. Motion approved 4-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. CURRENT EVENTS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Hill informed the Commission that two new members have joined the Roadrunners Basketball Team. Both are residents which mean that half of the 14 man team are from Surprise. The team will be practicing at Valley Vista starting in August and will have a tournament here on December 6th, with 3 teams coming in from California. Next week, Commissioner Hill is taking two teens to San Diego for a weekend of wheelchair basketball camp.

Commissioner Smith reported that the presentation to the FACT group at DES was very effective last month. The support group, which normally meets one Thursday night a month, offered to meet on Fridays to accommodate those who younger children. They also offered to change their name and open their meetings to families with disabilities, in general, not just developmental disabilities. Ms. Smith is continuing to work with them on the details for this and will keep the Commission informed.

Commissioner Lewis reminded the group that she uses a live captioning service to participate in the meetings, which creates a slight delay in information. Because of this, accommodations need to be made in the process of voting during the meeting.

5. **AGENDA**

A. Swearing in of New Commission Members – Sherry Aguilar, City Clerk
Sherry Aguilar swore in the following new Commission members: Tracy Smith, Jacob Taylor and Jane Williams and re-selected Commissioner Ken Hill for four year terms.

B. Presentation on Open Meeting Law – Julie Kriegh, Deputy City Attorney
Julie Kriegh stated that the purpose of the Open Meeting Law is to *ensure that the public has an opportunity to observe what the government is doing, how the government is doing it and why the government is doing it.*

Key points also include:

- Staff and the Commission are forbidden from polling votes
- Staff can provide the entire Commission with factual information
- Staff cannot be used to side-step the Open Meeting Laws
- Items cannot be discussed that are not on the agenda

C. Introduction of all Commission Members – Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate
Commissioners were asked to list their goals, for the Commission.

Wayne Nielsen, Chair

- Awareness & education
- An increase in Accessibility throughout the city
- Place where people can bring up their needs

Ken Hill, Vice-Chair

- Funding for projects to become a more accessible & user friendly city

Michelle Lewis

- Bring awareness to the Community related to hearing loss issues.
- Assist in starting a northwest branch of ALDA-Arizona Late-Deafened Adults

Scott Hjalmerik

- Increase in accessible housing

Tracy Smith

- Increase education and awareness about disability issues
- To make Surprise a disability friendly city.
- Increased activities & programs for children with disabilities

Jacob Taylor

- More accessible city, as a whole. Businesses (doorways, etc.)

Jane Williams (based on the priorities listed in the Strategic Plan)

- Develop a “best practices” assessment by researching other communities that have successful activity programs for people with

disabilities. Integrate the best aspects of these programs into an action plan to be implemented by the city.

- Work with local and regional transit providers to increase capacity and frequency of services in Surprise. Also increase hours of operation.
- Develop a pro-active outreach program for the entire community.

D. Overview of Disability Advisory Commission – Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate

Nanette Bowles provided the Commission with an overview of the Strategic Plan which includes the following four Key Result Areas: Access, Public Transportation & Mobility, Communication & Awareness, and Activities. A report was given on activities related to these four areas that were completed in FY08. A report was also given on the goals to address these four areas in FY09.

E. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair – Jean Poe, Risk Manager

Jean Poe explained that the role of the Commission Chair includes reviewing the agenda prior to posting, providing input on items to add to the agenda, running the monthly meetings, writing up a summary of the monthly meetings for the new Commission websites, and representing the Commission when items go to City Council.

MOTION-Commission Hill moved to nominate Wayne Nielsen as the new Chairperson for the Disability Advisory Commission with the term expiring on 6/30/10. Passed 7-0.

MOTION-Chairman Nielsen moved to nominate Ken Hill as the new Vice-Chair for the Disability Advisory Commission with the term expiring on 6/30/12. Passed 7-0.

F. Discussion and Possible Action on Visitability – Michael Schrock, Management & Budget Director

Nanette Bowles provided the Commission with a brief overview of visitability, which includes zero-step entry at one door into the home, 32” passage throughout the home and into habitable rooms, and at least 30”x48” maneuvering space in at least one bathroom on the main floor. Michael Schrock followed up by discussing the city’s interest in being accessible to all residents, and the possibility of having a community where people can age in place, if they choose. He also brought up concerns voiced by the Homebuilders Association of Central Arizona on the topic of visitability.

Commissioner Hill brought up his experiences when he built his accessible home. He stated that the developer told him that the items he wanted were usually ready to add into homes but for an “up-charge”. He also reported that a friend of his paid an additional \$20k to have his home accessible yet he still cannot get into some of the rooms because he couldn’t afford to have all of the doors widened.

Discussion continued related to any case law or legal action related to this. It was reported that the Pima County Ordinance was challenged in court but upheld.

Public Comment, from former Chairmen Jim Olmsted , included the encouragement for Commissioners to attend the August 5th Planning and Zoning meeting where Chapter 125 will be discussed, in support of visitability.

6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR AUGUST 20, 2008

Agenda items for the next meeting will include:

- Public Comments
- Current Events and Reports by Commissioners or Staff
- Presentation of Awards to Special Olympics Winners
- Commissioner Hill's Report on the Wheelchair Basketball Team
- Commissioner Nielsen's Report on the Access Northwest Valley Project
- ADA Audit Report
- 2008 ADA Enhancement Fund Project Report
- 2009 ADA Enhancement Fund Project Proposals
- Commission Lewis' Report on ALDA (Arizona Late-Deafened Adults)
- Visitability Subcommittee Report

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm, second by Commissioner Hill. Motion approved 7-0.

Chairperson Nielsen adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.



Wayne Nielsen, 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 July 16, 2008**.



Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate