



City of Surprise
Disability Advisory Commission
Wednesday September 17, 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
Scott Hjalmerik
Tracy Smith
Jacob Taylor
Jane Williams

Staff Present:

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

Members Absent:

Ken Hill, Vice Chair
Michelle Lewis

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Nielsen 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 17, 2008.

2. **APPROVAL OF JULY 16, 2008 MINUTES**

Chairman Nielsen called for approval of the July 16, 2008 minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Williams moved to accept the minutes as presented, second by Commissioner Smith. Motion approved 5-0.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Brenda Williams of GERMZAPPA, LLC approached the Commission with information about a hand sanitizing product that is helpful with individuals with disabilities who have difficulty opening their hands completely, as well as the general population.

4. **CURRENT EVENTS AND REPORTS**

Commissioner Smith reported the "Walk for Autism" will be held on November 2 at the Tempe Beach Park. Her family has a team and welcomes anyone who wishes to join them. Also arrangements for a Disability Support Group are still underway with DDD.

Commissioner Taylor made a suggestion that Dream Catcher Park has a water misting system to help keep people cool in the stands. He also suggested that local businesses install automatic door openers to help individuals access these businesses easier. He also announced that he has accepted an invitation to sit on the Governor's Council on Disability Issues.

Commissioner Hjalmerik recently took and passed a test at Wal-Mart to become a Manager.

Disability Advocate Nanette Bowles presented a formal invitation to the Commission for two upcoming events. The first is an education dinner held by the National Alliance for Mental Illness on Friday September 19 at 6 pm. The event is intended to help kickoff the expansion of their local support groups. The second event is the Grand Opening of Fire Station 7 on October 6th at 5:30 pm.

Also, Ms. Bowles announced that Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing held their final event to celebrate their 30th Anniversary at the Northwest Regional Library on August 27th. Over 100 people attended including approximately 75 residents for the Deaf community. At the event, Mayor Truitt received a Merit Award for the cities outreach work to the community.

Chairman Nielson explained that, based on the City Council model of specialty areas for City Council members, the Disability Advisory Commission

Wayne Nielsen, Chair	Promotion of Accessible Businesses through the Access Northwest Index
Ken Hill, Vice-Chair	Organized Adaptive Sports
Michelle Lewis	Association of Late-Deafened Adults Effective Communication
Scott Hjalmerik	Section 8 Housing
Tracy Smith	Community Education Resource Development
Jacob Taylor	Youth with Disabilities Adaptive Recreation
Jane Williams	Speakers Bureau

5. **AGENDA**

- A. Presentation of Awards to Special Olympics Winners – Joe Gladieux, Adaptive Recreation Coordinator
Joe Gladieux, Chairman Nielsen and former Chairman Olmstead presented Certificates of Achievement to the following Special Olympic athletes: Jason Boykin, Tracy Richard, Trina Jerome and Kyle Mitchell.
- B. Overview of Commission Responsibilities – Michael Schrock, Management and Budget Director
Mr. Schrock discussed the bylaws for the Disability Advisory Commission. He also discussed the staff's role with the Commission, and answered questions by Commissioners.
- C. Report on the Roadrunner Basketball Team – Commissioner Hill
Commission Hill was not in attendance to provide this report.

- D. ALDA (Arizona Late-Deafened Adults) Report – Commissioner Lewis
Commissioner Lewis was not in attendance to provide this report.
- E. Discussion and Possible Action on the Access Northwest Valley Project–
Commissioner Nielson
Per request, Ms. Bowles discussed the progress being made with the Access Northwest Index. On August 12th she presented at the monthly Surprise Regional Chamber Breakfast and has received a positive response from new businesses who want to participate in the project.
- F. ADA Audit Report – Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate
Ms. Bowles showed the Commission the great amount of progress that has been made over the last year and two years related to bringing city facilities into compliance with the ADA. The report was broken down into six areas: parking lots/sidewalks, physical access, potential barriers/safety issues, protruding objects and signage. In each of these areas, improvements have been significant.
- G. 2008 Enhancement Fund Project Report – Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate
Ms. Bowles provided the Commission with an overview of the money spent in fiscal year 2008 on ADA enhancements. The four areas include: Public Safety Building-\$30,291, Intersections-\$49,127, Human Services-\$94,704 and Park Facilities-\$102,456. Feedback on these enhancements has been very positive.
- H. Discussion and Possible Action on 2009 Enhancement Fund Proposals –
Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate
Ms. Bowles provided the Commission with two projects for the 2009 ADA Enhancement Funds. These include: Countdown crosswalks at the final 7 intersections in the City and automatic door openers at city owned high public facilities.
- MOTION**-Commissioner Hjalmervik moved to recommend \$12,000 for the countdown crosswalks at the final seven intersections in the city of Surprise. Second by Commissioner Williams. Passed 5-0.
- MOTION**-Commissioner Williams moved to recommend the process for soliciting bids to complete the installation of approximately 40 automatic door openers for city owned public facilities. Second by Commissioner Smith. Passed 5-0.
- I. Discussion and Possible Action on Visitability – Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate
Ms. Bowles provided the Commission with another overview of the six main features of Visitability. These include homes with:
1. At least one zero-step entry,
 2. 32” clearance through all interior main floor habitable doors, including bathrooms,
 3. At least one half-bath with maneuvering space of 30” x 48” minimum,

4. Grab bar reinforcements (installed behind dry wall for future potential use)
5. Lever hardware
6. Reachable outlets and controls

Commissioner Smith discussed knowing families who needed their homes modified instantly after accidents and experiencing great difficulties because of this. She stated that she would have purposely chosen a home with these features, if they had been readily available.

Commissioner Williams stated that the Commission should be proactive in this area as “these are minimal accommodations that should already be in place.”

MOTION-Commissioner Williams moved to approve a recommendation to support the City’s efforts to implement visitability within the City of Surprise. Second by Commissioner Smith. Passed 5-0.

6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 15, 2008

Agenda items for the next meeting will include:

- Public Comments
- Current Events and Reports by Commissioners or Staff
- Commissioner Taylors Report on Adaptive Recreation
- Commissioner Hjalmervik Report on Section 8 Housing
- Commissioner Williams Report on the Speaker’s Bureau
- Commissioner Hill’s Report on the Wheelchair Basketball Team
- Commissioner Nielsen’s Report on the Access Northwest Valley Project
- Commissioner Smiths Report on Community Education & Resource Development
- Commission Lewis’ Report on ALDA (Arizona Late-Deafened Adults)
- 2009 ADA Enhancement Fund Project Proposals
- Strategic Plan Update
- Disability Summit Progress Report
- Update on the city’s Park-n-Ride
- Visitability Subcommittee Report

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 pm, second by Commissioner Smith. Motion approved 5-0.

Chairperson Nielsen adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Wayne S. Nielsen

Wayne Nielsen, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Nanette Bowles

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 17, 2008**.

Nanette Bowles

Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate