



City of Surprise  
Disability Advisory Commission  
Wednesday March 18, 2009 - 6:00 P.M.  
*Surprise City Hall – Council Chambers*  
*12425 W. Bell Road, D-100*  
*Surprise, Arizona 85374*

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### Members Present:

Ken Hill, Vice Chair  
Scott Hjalmerik  
Tracy Smith  
Jacob Taylor  
Michelle Hernandez

### Staff Present:

Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate  
Paul Frie, CRS Sports & Adaptive Rec. Div. Manager

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Hill called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. at the Surprise City Hall, Classroom, 12425 W. Bell Road, D-100, Surprise, Arizona 85374, on Wednesday March 18, 2009.

### 2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 18, 2009 MINUTES

Vice Chair Hill called for approval of the February 18, 2009 minutes.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Taylor moved to accept the minutes as presented, second by Commissioner Hernandez. Motion approved 5-0.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments prior at this time.

### 4. CURRENT EVENTS AND REPORTS

Disability Advocate Nanette Bowles announced that a Leadership Summit for Teens with Disabilities was being planned for May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Imagine Prep School. This will be lead by a group of students from there who attended the Teen Summit in January and were chosen to be a part of the Leadership Project between the City and Rio Salado. The Commission will be kept informed as progress is made. She also announced that the Arizona ADA Coordinators will be holding the first locally supported Arizona ADA Conference on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Three representatives from Washington DC will be presenting as well as local experts. This event will be held at the Disability Empowerment Center in Phoenix.

### 5. AGENDA

#### **STAFF REPORT – Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate**

##### A. Reports:

##### a. Accessible America Award Update

Ms. Bowles announced that the City of Surprise has been named one of the top seven finalists in this national competition. The winner has not yet been announced but she will keep the Commission updated.

b. Transition Plan Report

Ms. Bowles reported that materials are being purchased and developed for the Transition Plan.

c. Enhancement Fund Report

Ms. Bowles reported that the remainder of the ADA Enhancement funds were returned to the City, per City Council. The Commission was reminded that approximately \$527,000 was allocated for ADA enhancements over the last 3 years. This money went towards the new City Hall, several city parks, the Public Safety building, the Senior Center and city intersections. In some cases, where the money was used to enhance a program or project, the practice of that has become a standard that will continue beyond the one-time money given. For example, new park restrooms will continue to extend the partitions of accessible stalls to increase the amount of space inside of these and countdown crosswalk signals will be installed at all new City intersections.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

B. Compassionate Surprise Series – Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate

Ms. Bowles informed the Commission of the April 11<sup>th</sup> Fair Housing Workshop that will be held at the Surprise Regional Library from 1-3 pm. Sandy Fagan, the Deputy Director of the Southwest Fair Housing Council will present on housing discrimination and accessible housing. Staff from the Community Development Neighborhood Services Division will also be on hand to answer questions, including local fair housing efforts. The event is free and registration is online.

## **AREA REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

C. Adaptive Recreation Report – Commissioner Taylor

Commissioner Taylor reported that an Adaptive Camping trip and Egg Hunt coming up through the Community & Recreation Services Department.

D. Section 8 Housing Report – Commissioner Hjalmerik

Commissioner Hjalmerik reported that he will be doing research on resources within Surprise.

E. Roadrunner Basketball Team Report– Vice Chair Hill

Vice Chair Hill reported the team finished out their season in second place but are now considered #1 in the Southern California Conference because the 1<sup>st</sup> place team moved up to a new Division. As a result of their increased success, two Suns players, who live in Avondale, are interested in playing for the Roadrunners. A grant, through the Christopher Reeve's Foundation, has been applied for to help fund this team and they are still in need of a Coach.

F. ALDA (Arizona Late-Deafened Adults) Report – Commissioner Lewis

In her absence, Commissioner Lewis emailed her report to be read by Ms. Bowles. Updates included: a recent meeting with members of the Deaf, late-

deaf and hard-of-hearing community with representatives from Ultra Star and Nanette Bowles. As a result, open-captioned movies will be shown on a more regular basis with the first one in late March. Other upcoming events include a "Deaf Day at Surprise Stadium" where groups from these communities will be attending a baseball game together on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Members of the local Deaf community will sign the National Anthem. Finally, the local ALDA group, now formally known as ALDA Sonora, will be meeting at the Senior Center on April 4<sup>th</sup> from 12-3 pm.

G. Community Education and Resource Development Report – Commissioner Smith

Commissioner Smith reported that can autism group has recently moved out to Surprise so she is working to connect with them. She is also interested in having disability related books and resources donated to the local library to increase the amount they have for the public.

H. Access Northwest Index Report – Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate

With the absence of Chairman Nielsen's request, Ms. Bowles discussed the progress being made with the Access Northwest Index. To date, an accessibility assessment has been completed at 33 businesses. Three different marketing materials have recently been developed to assist in the progression of this project. These include a flier for New Member Orientation, etc., a postcard that will be mailed to Chamber members and a small card, like a playing card, that can be given out as needed.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

I. Discussion and Possible Action on the Strategic Plan – Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate

Ms. Bowles gave the Commission the updated Access Survey results. A total of 31 people responded to this survey which helped identify the highest priorities and new items for consideration. Based on these results, more in-depth results from a Commission survey and discussion at the meeting, three major areas were identified for the first Key Result Area originally titled "Access". Still under "Access", these three new sub-areas of focus will include: 1. City Facilities, Events & Staff, 2. Local Businesses and 3. Housing. Specific items drafted under each are specific and measurable. These will be refined and re-presented to the Commission on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR APRIL 15, 2009**

Agenda items for the next meeting will include:

- Public Comments
- Current Events and Reports by Commissioners or Staff
- Staff Report: Accessible America Award, Transition Plan, Compassionate Surprise Series
- Commissioner Taylors Report on Adaptive Recreation
- Commissioner Hjalmerik Report on Section 8 Housing
- 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
- Commissioner Lewis' Report on ALDA (Arizona Late-Deafened Adults)
- Commissioner Hernandez Report on Community Access
- Discussion and Possible Action on the Revision of the Strategic Plan

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hernandez moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm, second by Commissioner Hjalmerik. Motion approved 5-0.

Vice Chair Hill adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

*Wayne J. Nielsen*

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Wayne Nielsen, Chairperson

**ATTEST:**

*Nanette Bowles*

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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 March 18, 2009**.

*Nanette Bowles*

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Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate