



City of Surprise
Disability Advisory Commission
Wednesday May 20, 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:

Wayne Nielsen, Chair
Ken Hill, Vice Chair
Michelle Hernandez
Scott Hjalmervik
Michelle Lewis
Tracy Smith
Jacob Taylor

Staff Present:

Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate
Paul Frie, CRS Sports & Adaptive Rec. Div. Manager
Joe Gladieux, Adaptive Recreation Supervisor

A. ROLL CALL

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 May 20, 2009.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. CURRENT EVENTS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Hjalmervik reported that he attended the Relay for Life event on April 25th.

Commissioner Smith reported that she also attended the Relay for Life event and the Teen Leadership Summit at Imagine Prep. She took a troop of Boy Scouts to both events and reports that they were greatly impacted by both.

Vice Chair Hill reported that he and the Roadrunners attended the Teen Leadership Summit and worked with the participants to increase their awareness. He reported that they enjoyed the experience and would like to do more of these types of events.

Commissioner Hernandez reported that she attended a recent Focus Group at Interfaith and will be participating more. She also reported that she was recently introduced to AZ TAP and was asked by their Director to be a part of the Phoenix Emergency Preparedness Team. She also wanted to express her gratitude for the recent adaptive camping trip that her husband and daughter attended.

Chairman Nielsen reported that after recent travels he learned of the new expanding scope of disability legislation. He reported that the Commission had provided opportunity for change of assignment to be facilitated by CRS and that the DAC could now resume its full activity schedule in the future. He also stated that he hoped the Disability Advocate would be able to continue to work broadly throughout the City, as was the original intention of the position.

D. STAFF REPORTS

1. Staff Update and Reports

Disability Advocate Nanette Bowles reported on the following items:

- April 16th Sun City Grand Support Group Presentation
- April 25th Compassionate Surprise: Fair Housing Workshop
- May 2nd Leadership Summit for Teens with Disabilities
- May 5th 3000 Club Presentation to business owners
- May 12th Accessibility Assessments: Sun City Grand businesses

Events coming up include:

- June 11-30 Basic Sign Language Class
- June 27th Compassionate Surprise: Developmental Disabilities
- July 13-29th Mom and Me Sign Language Class

Recent reports on resource activities were also presented. These represent the number of calls for resources received by the Disability Advocate since August 2006:

- 299 Resident calls for resources, complaints/ accommodations
- 177 Businesses or agencies calling for or about resources, etc.
- 293 Staff calls regarding ADA complaints or questions
- 90 Disability Advisory Commission calls or questions
- 87 Misc. ADA or disability related research efforts, etc.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

AGENDA

2. Access Northwest Index Report – Chairman Nielsen

Chairman Nielsen reported that recent changes had taken place at the Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce so updates to the Access website were being delayed. Commissioner Hernandez provided some suggestions and offered up her services to help with the website. It was also reported that the Board President assured the group that the efforts towards this project will continue.

3. Adaptive Recreation Report – Commissioner Taylor

Commissioner Taylor reported that the Memorial Day Parade was taking place on Saturday May 23rd with a group from Buddy Sports participating. He also reported that he's interested in helping senior citizens who are homebound get involved in recreation that comes to their home. He will explore this more and get back to the DAC in June.

Sports Manager Paul Frie added to this report that Surprise was recently involved in a prom for teens with disabilities. Approximately 65 students attended this very successful event. The event consisted of \$7,000 of in-kind donations where 12 different private and public entities came together to make this a success. Also, Home Depot has offered to provide free modifications to wheelchairs for players that participate in the Surprise Power Soccer program and produced a commercial to be shown to corporate office in hopes of starting a national promotion of power soccer.

4. ALDA (Arizona Late-Deafened Adults) Report – Commissioner Lewis
Commissioner Lewis reported that the next meeting will be in Tucson on May 30th and in Phoenix in November. People from Phoenix, Tucson and Yuma are expected at the May 30th meeting. It was also reported that the Surprise Disability Information website helped a new potential member find her.
5. Community Access – Commissioner Hernandez
Commissioner Hernandez explained that her area of focus would include a number of items related to accessibility in the community. Some of these efforts will include emergency preparedness, accessible parking enforcement, visitability and business access.
6. Community Education and Resource Development Report – Commissioner Smith
Commissioner Smith reported that she have been approved as a Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor on Disabilities. This helps as she continues to bring awareness to groups of Boy Scouts throughout the community. Also, she is interested in representatives from Raising Special Kids coming to Surprise to talk about IEP's, etc. This may be a topic for a future Compassionate Surprise Workshop.
7. Roadrunner Basketball Team Report– Vice Chair Hill
Vice Chair Hill reported that their season is done so they are only practicing twice a month for the summer. As they are the ranked #1 in the California conference, they will need to defend their title in the upcoming season. They are still looking to have their next tournament here in Surprise on the weekend of December 5th, 2009. The Roadrunners also have new player from the Suns who lives in Avondale.
8. Section 8 Housing Report – Commissioner Hjalmerik
Commissioner Hjalmerik reported that he attended the April 25th Compassionate Surprise Workshop on Fair Housing and learned a great deal.
9. Discussion and Possible Action on the Strategic Plan – Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate
Ms. Bowles facilitated a discussion on the Strategic Plan Key Result Area: Public Transportation and Mobility. Of the twelve items originally listed under this topic, these have been placed into three categories: 1. Public Transportation and Dial-A-Ride, 2. Connectivity Design and Development and 3. Pedestrian Sidewalks and Safety.

Dave Golder, from Dial-A-Ride was available to help answer questions. Discussion from the Commissioners included questions about the possibility of insurance companies helping fund transportation for dialysis patients so help free up space for other riders.

There was also discussion about members of the Commission being more involved in attending meetings of the Transportation Commission so they can

stay more informed of the issues and progress in the area of public transportation and mobility.

Minor modifications were suggested for the draft revision of the Public Transportation and Mobility portion of the Strategic Plan. These will be made and prepared for a vote on June 17, 2009.

F. AGENDA ITEMS FOR JUNE 17, 2009

Chairman Nielsen asked if a survey of the new City Hall could be conducted with Commissioner Hernandez and a report brought back for the June 17th meeting. He stated, "We have a commitment to make sure it is compliant and that the ADA enhancements, paid for by the Commission, are there."

Agenda items for the next meeting will include:

- Public Comments
- Current Events and Reports by Commissioners or Staff
- Staff Report
- 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
- Report of ADA Compliance and Commission funded Enhancements to City Hall

G. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vice Chair Hill moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm, second by Commissioner Taylor. Motion approved 7-0.

Chairman Nielsen adjourned the meeting at 7:30 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 May 20, 2009**.



Nanette Bowles, Disability Advocate