



City of Surprise  
Disability Advisory Commission  
Wednesday October 20, 2010 - 6:00 P.M.  
*Northwest Regional Library*  
*16089 N. Bullard Avenue*  
*Surprise, Arizona 85374*

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### Members Present:

Wayne Nielsen, Chair  
Ken Hill, Vice Chair  
Scott Hjalmerik  
Michelle Lewis  
Jacob Taylor  
Michelle Hernandez

### Staff Present:

Paul Frie, CRS Sports & Adaptive Rec. Div. Manager  
Dana Garr- Analyst

### Members Absent:

Tracy Smith

### A. ROLL CALL

Chairman Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. at the Northwest Regional Library, 16089 N. Bullard Ave, Surprise, Arizona 85374.

### B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 1. **Approval of the March 17, 2010 Minutes**

Chairman Nielson called for approval of the March 17, 2010 minutes.

**MOTION:** Vice Chairman Hill motioned to accept the March 17, 2010.

**Second:** Commissioner Taylor seconds the motion.

**Unanimous vote to accept the minutes.**

### C. CURRENT EVENTS AND REPORTS

- a. Adaptive Recreation Report – Commissioner Taylor reported that he will be working the haunted house that is coming for Halloween.
- b. Fair Housing Report – Commissioner Hjalmerik-No report
- c. Accessibility - Commissioner Hernandez reported about our dial a ride program and her personal experience and that its beneficial but you have to plan ahead and it takes most of the day to travel somewhere in the valley.  
Michelle also spoke about talking with a representative from Valley Metro and providing feedback about the transportation lines that run through Surprise.  
Michelle will provide more information on this topic next meeting once she attends the next Valley Metro meeting.
- d. Commissioner Smith - Absent

- e. Surprise Road Runners Basketball Team - Vice Chair Hill advised that the team played in their first tournament in California and the team won 2 games and lost 1. They have a possible new player coming down from Seattle who is interested in playing. The team's next tournament is November 21.
- f. ALDA (Arizona Late-Deafened Adults) Report – Commissioner Lewis reported that there has not been an ALDA meeting since April because most of the group lives in the east valley and the other half live in the west valley. The other issue is that they are having trouble funding the CART services for the meetings. They are in talks of splitting the group in half based on location. They are still hoping to have a meeting sometime this year here in Surprise. Michelle also attended a senior social at Starbuck's in which there were 40 people there. On a final note Michelle commented on the fact that Ultra Star Cinemas is using captioning once again for all of their movies.
- g. Access Northwest Index Report – Chairman Nielsen reported that they have had two presentations to the board at Sun City Grand on visioning what the community is like in the future. This vision will help in planning to help meet everyone's needs etc. We talked quite a bit about conditioning changes to help facilitate aging and keeping a positive environment that is conducive to the lifestyle people are used to.

#### **D. STAFF REPORTS**

**Paul Frie presented a staff report to the commission on the following:**

- The Special Olympics Track Team sent three athletes to represent Surprise at the Summer State Games in Mesa. The three athletes collected 5 Gold and one silver medal at the competition.
- Joe Gladieux was named the city's ADA Coordinator.
- The City of Surprise won the outstanding program award for their Adaptive Prom at the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association annual Conference. Paul and Joe attended the award ceremony along with Karin Morrow a teacher from the Dysart School district that assisted in the partnership to make the event a success and her son Spencer who was crowned the Prom King.
- The CRS Department and Dysart Unified School District have expanded the adaptive outreach work program to include all 4 high schools and their self contained classes. Through this program the students receive life and career skills that will be helpful in transitioning out of high school and searching for employment.
- The City of Surprise hosted the Special Olympics Fall State games. The event consisted of Opening Ceremonies at Surprise Stadium, Aquatics competition at our pool, softball at Surprise Farms and the bocce competition was held in Sun City Grand. The event consisted over 1,100 athletes and 400 plus volunteers.
- The Surprise Delegation for Special Olympics had its first team of 6 ever participate in the West Valley and State Games in aquatics competition.

- Joe Gladieux is currently attending the National Disability Advocates Conference in San Diego. Special Areas of interest are changes to the original ADA Laws.
- Joe has assisted numerous city departments with disability related questions in regards to ADA and set assisted in setting up interpreters and other forms of requests for accommodations.
- Joe Gladieux has been doing research into implementing video interpreting in Surprise. This service would allow deaf residents to communicate effectively with city staff through video monitors and interpreters instantly.
- Dana Garr, Sr. Analyst for CRS, reported on the boards and commissions terms and the changes that have occurred in the past several months. Dana provided background on the council's decision to extend the terms through the end of June, 2011. This was an additional extension from the original December term expiration that was offered to provide ample time to recruit new members to fill the numerous vacancies throughout the city.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No requests from the public

**E. APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA**

No items were on consent.

**REGULAR AGENDA – NON-PUBLIC HEARING**

**Item #1** Discussion and Possible Action on electing **Chair and Vice Chair position**

Commissioner Lewis nominated Michelle Hernandez to be the commissioner.

Commissioner Nielsen requested that since there are no other nominations that a unanimous vote be cast and everyone agreed to elect Michelle Hernandez to the new Commissioner of the Disability Advisory Commission.

Commissioner Nielsen asked for any nominations for Vice Chair and no one was willing to nominate due to previous discussion that everyone was busy and not interested in the position. Chairmen Nielson agreed to take the position of vice chair and support Michelle Hernandez as the new Chair. Michelle Hernandez officially nominated Wayne and with no other nominations. Wayne requested a unanimous vote be cast that he be the new Vice Chair of the Commission.

**Item #2** Discussion and update on the strategic plan. Chairman Nielson reported on the area of Accessibility and inclusion from the strategic plan providing updates from the original 2006 plan.

Chairman Nielson

The items reviewed were as follows:

*Goal: To emulate the "best programs" identified to increase opportunities for recreational and social activities for people with disabilities in the City of Surprise and integrate these when possible with the activities of able people.*

4-1. 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.

UPDATE: Overall the last 3 years, programs around the state and country have been researched, on an as needed basis. A formal “best practices” assessment has not been conducted.

a. Raise staff awareness of programs in other communities and encourage them to integrate accommodations for people with disabilities into city programs.

UPDATE: Awareness of the need and method to provide accommodations for people with disabilities within the city has increased over the last few years. Staff also know that they can contact the Disability Advocate if they have questions or need assistance.

4-2. Continue to support the development of DreamCatcher Park to ensure that amenities are conducive to hosting activities for people with disabilities. Encourage public/private partnerships to augment the development of the park (e.g., working with local businesses, healthcare systems, etc.).

UPDATE: Since the opening of Dream Catcher Park in March 2007, the facility has been and continues to be used a great deal.

4-3. Identify private-sector organizations that sponsor activities for people with disabilities and take steps to bring them to the community.

UPDATE: There are several organizations throughout the valley whose services are available to the residents of Surprise.

a. Develop an incentive policy (e.g., providing land or space) to attract activity providers for people with disabilities to Surprise.

UPDATE: Unknown.

b. Work with local and regional healthcare providers to integrate healthcare with therapeutic activities in the community.

UPDATE: Unknown. It is unclear if we can have an impact on local and regional healthcare providers, though providing education and awareness of the benefits of therapeutic activities is a possibility.

4-4. Develop components for people with disabilities to participate in existing programs such as arts and crafts and dance. Build upon activities that already exist.

UPDATE: There are “Special Interest” classes offered through Adaptive Recreation that offer a wide variety of opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

4-5. Identify and promote sites for social gatherings for those with disabilities.

UPDATE: Currently there are two meetings a month for the Deaf community and quarterly meetings for those who are late-deafened. Finding space for these, or any other groups, has often been a struggle. These are now being promoted through the Community and Recreation Services Department and on the Disability Information page. More can be listed, when identified.

4-6. Integrate the Recreation Coordinator position as a key implementation tool for the DAC Strategic Plan.

UPDATE: The cities first full-time Adaptive Recreation Coordinator was hired in 2007 and has increased the adaptive recreation programs from 3 to over 60.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Potential agenda items for November were discussed and include:

- Public Comments
- Current Events and Reports by Commissioners or Staff
- Staff Report
- Approval of the October 20, 2010 Minutes
- Discussion on Strategic Plan in the area of Mobility
- Consideration and action on items to be placed on future agendas

## **G. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Chairman Nielson adjourned the meeting at 7:13pm.

**ATTEST:**

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Wayne Nielsen, Chairperson

**CERTIFICATION:** I, Joe Gladieux, Adaptive Recreation Supervisor 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, October 20, 2010**.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Gladieux, Recreation Supervisor  
ADA Coordinator