



CITY OF TUCSON
 COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
 (CODI)
 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of the Tucson Commission on Disability Issues was called to order by George McFerron, Chair, on Wednesday, June 20, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., at Eastside City Hall, in the Conference Room, located at 7575 E. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, AZ.

1. Roll Call

| Commission Members | Representing | Present/Absent |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Susan Zimmerman | Mayor | Present |
| Vacancy | Ward 1 | |
| Larry Lucas | Ward 2 | Present |
| Michael Pesce | Ward 3 | Present |
| Barton Beck | Ward 4 | Present |
| Vacancy | Ward 5 | |
| Robert Blizzard | Ward 6 | Present |
| George H. McFerron - Chair | Mayor/Council | Present |
| Jeffrey Handt – Vice Chair | Mayor/Council | Present |
| Phyllis A. Cowman | Mayor/Council | Absent |
| Vacancy | City Manager | |
| Jean Paul Jorquera | City Manager | Absent |
| Vacancy | City Manager | |
| Staff Present | Representing | |
| John Zukas | City of Tucson Transportation Department | |
| Karin Erickson | Sun Tran | |
| Mary McLain | Van Tran | |
| George Caria | City of Tucson Transportation Department | |
| Rick Guerra | Recording Secretary, City Clerk's Office | |

2. Approval of Minutes – March 21, 2007

MOTION by Mr. Handt, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0 to approve the minutes of March 21, 2007 with the following corrections: Item 3b, “freedom” was misspelled; Item 4a second line should read “they would be contacted”.

MOTION by Mr. Blizzard, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0 to approve the minutes of May 16, 2007 with the following corrections: Item 4, SPAA should read "Emergency Preparedness"; Item 7, removed from the motion "Double Tree".

3. Staff Reports – Discussion/Recommendation/Action

- a. ADA Eligibility/Transportation – John Zukas reported for the month of May 2007 there were three hundred forty-five (345) applications requested, three hundred thirty-three (333) applications received, eighty-seven (87) applications returned as incomplete. Also, a total of three hundred eleven (311) applications processed, eight (8) denials with ten point one zero (10.10) average days to process ADA eligibility applications.

Mr. Zukas reported that everything seemed to be proceeding well with the test group regarding the Van Tran voucherless ticket system.

- c. Equal Opportunity Programs (This item was taken out of order) – Mr. Zukas spoke on behalf of Ms. Allison Colter-Mack. Reid Park Zoo modifications had been completed pursuant to the Justice Department Settlement Agreement. Modifications of the restrooms and locker room at the Santa Cruz police station was scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2007. Parking lot striping at the Randolph Golf complex was near completion while awaiting the installation of a copper-clad counter top in the clubhouse. This would arrive in two weeks with installation complete by the end of June 2007.

Work had begun on the balcony walkway at the Temple of Music and Art. A structural engineer had determined the balcony walkway was not sound enough to be modified. A technical feasibility plan would be submitted to the Justice Department for this area. The drinking fountain and restrooms had been replaced. Work had begun on the dressing rooms.

Modifications had begun at the Public Safety Training Academy dormitory with demolition of the south side complete. An extension of completion had been requested with an anticipated completion of November-December 2007.

Re-pouring the access ramp at the Hardesty Center had begun and expected to be completed by the end of June 2007. Remaining facility deficiencies would be complete by early July 2007.

Modifications to the locker area at the Clements Center had begun.

Assisted Living Systems (ALS) had been installed at various facilities. Additional equipment was anticipated for installation at the Public Safety Training Academy and the Tucson Convention Center which was to begin in July and August 2007.

- b. Sun Tran - Karin Erickson reported for the month of May there were no Transit Ambassador training sessions, due to vehicle operator training for eighteen (18) new drivers instead. There were ten (10) community outreach presentations reaching over six hundred (600) consumers. Two (2) of the Living Independently with Freedom and Equality (LIFE) Mobility Training programs were co-hosted by Sun Tran, one on May 8 at Carefree Mobile Village providing outreach to twenty-four (24) senior citizens. Of those, two (2) used mobility devices. The next was on May 29 at the Quincey Douglas branch Library working with nine (9) consumers, one of whom used a mobility device. She said there was a session on June 7 at Barrio Viejo where there were seven (7) consumers and the eighteen (18) new Sun Tran drivers. She said the next session with LIFE would be on July 17, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Armory Park Senior Center.

Ms. Erickson reported for the month of March at the customer service center there were twenty-three thousand eight hundred eighty-five (23,885) phone calls and seventy-eight (78) e-mails. She said they had received three hundred forty-nine (349) service reports. She said they had thirty-nine (39) inquiries, with forty-three (43) compliments. After investigation of the two hundred forty-three (243) complaints, it was deemed that thirty-one (31) were chargeable and two hundred and twelve (212) were not chargeable to Sun Tran. She said they had received twenty-four (24) miscellaneous reports. There were eleven (11) ADA specific complaints and upon investigation two (2) were determined to be chargeable to Sun Tran.

- d. Van Tran – Mary McLain reported the year-to-date statistics through May. Passenger demand was five hundred thirty-nine thousand five hundred fifteen (539,515), a four (4) percent increase over the same

period last year. Passenger ridership was four hundred three thousand one hundred and sixty (403,160). Cancellations were one hundred and six thousand one hundred and seventy-six (106,176), an increase of eight point eight (8.8) percent. No-shows went down by point six (0.6) percent for a total of thirty thousand one hundred seventy-nine (30,179). Vouchers were down to thirty-five thousand five hundred and thirty-two (35,532) not collected, which was a thirty-one (31) percent decrease from 2006.

Ms. McLain reported there were fifty-five (55) compliments and one hundred fifty-seven (157) complaints. That equated to one (1) complaint for every two thousand five hundred sixty-eight (2,568) passengers. Service hours increased two point four (2.4) percent to two hundred sixty-five thousand eight hundred sixty-two (265,862). She said this reflects their efforts to meet passenger demands through some internal efficiencies as opposed to simply adding more service hours. Cost per trip was at twenty-seven dollars and two cents (\$27.02), a slight increase of one (1) percent. She said the average hold time to make reservations was forty-nine (49) seconds.

e. Parks & Recreation – No report was given.

f. Human Relations Commission – No report was given.

4. Van Tran Policies Presentation by George Caria, Tucson Department of Transportation – Discussion/Recommendation/Action

George Caria, Tucson Department of Transportation (DOT) reported that he and his staff had worked closely with the CODI Transportation Subcommittee members to clarify and adjust the current DOT policy document.

Mr. Blizzard, Chair of the CODI Transportation Subcommittee, said that after these discussions, clarifications and changes to some of the language in the policies the subcommittee had voted unanimously to recommend approval by the full commission.

MOTION by Commissioner Blizzard, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0 to approve the Van Tran Policies as presented.

5. Call to the Audience

Renee Schierling introduced herself as being interested in becoming a member of the Commission, quoting highlights from her resume as well as taking questions from Commission members.

Rev. David Scharlau introduced himself as being interested in becoming a member of the Commission, quoting highlights from his resume as well as taking questions from Commission members.

Timothy Shell introduced himself as being interested in becoming a member of the Commission, and took questions from Commission members.

Michael Pliska introduced himself as being interested in becoming a member of the Commission, and took questions from Commission members.

6. Break

7. Chairperson's Summary of Current Events – Informational Only

Chair McFerron introduced Susan Zimmerman, the Commission's newest appointee from the Mayor's Office.

Ms. Zimmerman took a moment to introduce herself, mentioning some of the highlights of her work with the disabled community.

Chair McFerron passed around copies of various items he had received, asking members to take what interested them.

8. Commission Member's Summary of Current Events – Informational Only

Commissioner Beck said he had spoken with [someone] from Linkages who was interested in being a member of the Commission.

Commissioner Blizzard reminded the members that the Mayor and Council Strategic Focus Area Subcommittee on Neighborhoods, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness was meeting on June 21, 2007 at 11:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers. He encouraged the Commission

members to attend and lend support to the provisions effecting the disabled community.

Commissioner Pesce said he had recently attended a concert by children from Uganda held at the Tanque Verde Lutheran Church. He mentioned how prepared they were to accommodate disabled people and he wanted to make mention of that.

He also relayed that a friend of his had a wonderful experience using Van Tran and wanted to publicly pass on the good feedback.

Commissioner Zimmerman announced an informal arthritis gathering at the University Marriott on July 26, 2007. She said it would have medical and professional speakers. She said she would send the details to the Commission members via email.

Commissioner Lucas spoke about an article in the AARP magazine concerning disabled access in hotels.

9. Sub-committee Reports

- a. Public Relations/Education – Commissioner Pesce reported that the date for the 2008 CODI Conference would be Friday, October 10, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Holidome. He said the theme would be Building an Inclusive Tucson for People with Disabilities. There would be three tracts; one on health and wellness, another about awareness of services available and issues surrounding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and finally a tract about lifestyles, awareness and universal accessibility. He said the next meeting of the subcommittee would be September 17, 2007 at the Ward 3 Council Office.
- b. Services/Programs/Activities/Architectural Barriers (SPAA) – Vice Chair Handt reported that there was no subcommittee meeting since there were not enough members and would reconvene when they did.
- c. Transportation – Commissioner Blizzard said there had been a meeting about the Sun Tran policies. He also said he had talked with James Glock, Director of Transportation about having disabled interests represented at the Grant Road project meetings and had been assured that would happen. He said he had been given a

referral concerning Lee Pagetti who represents a neighborhood organization in Ward 3. Mr. Pagetti had applied for a transportation enhancement grant for improvements on Park Avenue and was soliciting the help of CODI on ADA issues. Commissioner Blizzard said the Pima Association of Governments and the Regional Transportation Authority had asked for assistance on ADA issues concerning transportation. As an appointee on the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee representing CODI, Commissioner Blizzard said they had looked at traffic signals and the obstacles they present to people in wheelchairs and walkers when crossing the street. He said the Department of Transportation was putting in the more modern count down cross walk systems. Finally, he announced that the Transit On The Move meeting would be held the following week and that the next meeting of the CODI Transportation Subcommittee would be July 18, 2007 at Eastside City Hall.

- d. Housing – Commissioner Beck spoke about the Subcommittee’s efforts surrounding the Inclusive Home Design Ordinance. He said the ordinance was in the Mayor & Council’s Strategic Focus Area Subcommittee for Children, Families and Seniors. He also said the Subcommittee had been working with Pima County’s Development Services Department and others to gather support for the ordinance and it would now be forwarded to Mayor and Council for adoption.

Commissioner Beck spoke about the award CODI would be awarding to developers who provide accessibility features in their home designs. He handed out the letter that would be sent out soliciting votes for these developers that would be mailed out by the end of July.

- e. Employment – No report given.

10. Budget Report and Expenditures – Discussion/Recommendation/Action

Rick Guerra informed the Commission that as a point of order there was a need to reallocate monies back into the general funds that had been allocated for projects that never took place. These funds had been reallocated at the previous meeting without this formality.

MOTION by Commissioner Beck, duly seconded, and carried by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 to reallocate funds that went unspent back into the general fund to then be allocated as designated at the May 16, 2007 meeting (Item 7).

11. Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center – Discussion/Recommendation/Action

Chair McFerron passed out a letter wherein Larry Lattomus from the Patron of the Adaptive Recreation Center requesting support from CODI to the efforts by his committee to get bond funding for additions to the Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center.

MOTION by Commissioner Lucas, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0 to support bond funding for an addition to the Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center.

Chair McFerron asked Commissioner Beck to draft the letter and he agreed to do so.

12. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Blizzard asked for an item concerning CODI support of ADA improvements in transportation projects.

Commissioner Handt asked for an item to discuss the barricades on sidewalks that are used during construction projects.

13. Adjournment: 4:38 p.m.