Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
Minutes: September 10, 2007

Commissioners Attending:
Ron Lucey
Norman Kieke
Chip Howe
Kathy Kasprisin
Joseph Geraci
Alyssa Eacono
Jesus Lardizabal
Tanya Winters

Associate Members:
Will Brown
Willie Williams
Holly Pope
Renee Borders
Leteshia Finley
Nancy Crowther

Guest:
Bryson Smith
Steven Fisher
Consuelo Castillo
Jerold Terry
Lemont Ross
Gina Copic
Stuart Hersh
Paul Hilgers
Rowena Caldwell
Mark Cole
Neasel Conner
Stacy Helm
Linda Espy
Deborah Britton
Theresa Wright

ABSENT
Denise Sonleitner

Staff Liaison: Dolores Gonzalez

Welcome and Visitor Introductions for the September 10 , 2007 meeting were made by AMCPD Chair, Mr. Ron Lucey at 12:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin to approve the August 13, 2007 minutes with corrections, and seconded by Commissioner Tanya Winters; the motion was approved unanimously by all.

Presentation 1: Changes to SMART Housing Incentive from 10%-5%

Paul Hilgers, Regina Copic, and Stuart Hersh: City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and City of Austin Neighborhood Development

1. About Smart Housing
    - Give builder incentive to make 10% of their housing units accessible
    - Committed to affordable housing, need more fee waivers to create more Smart Housing
    - Since Inception five years ago, has reviewed 104 sites inspected, however only 3 waivers given.

- Ron: support for changes to SMART Housing, and request statisitics on 1 vs. 2 story units.
- Request support of amendment to lower requirement from 10%-5% to increase builder participation.

Presentation 2: Work Base Learning Program

Linda Espy, Deborah Britton, and Thersa Wright: Work Base Learning, Travis County, and Youth Disabilities Coordinator

1. What we do
    - Provide a variety of work based learning opportunities to youth throughout the city; including recruitment, training, and job placement.
    - Requirements: current enrollment and attending school, current school year student id, a social security card, be 14 years of age, and complete 15 hours of job readiness training.
2. This year's highlights
    - 189 recruited for training
    - 150 placed in jobs
    - 130 completed the program
    - 9 were hired by the private sector (HEB, Goodwill, Galaxy Theater) and 50 got school credit .
3. Future goals
    - Increase private sector (CVS, Omni, PACT, Humane Society, Galaxy, Texas Dept. Health.) worksites for part-time summer hiring
    - Help families
        - Assisted living, moving individuals to group homes
    - Help youth become more self sufficient
    - Spend more marketing by word of mouth to increase numbers. Spend more time with individual training as needed.
    - Get good youth feedback. So they want to come back and volunteer
    - Place an emphasis on supervisor training, and giving a personal touch to participants.
3. Budget Challenges
    - Want to recruit 200 youth
    - Minimum Wage went up
    - Travis County increase budget to accommodate 750 participants

Presentation 3: Capital Metro seeking feedback and assistance on purposed plans

Nancy Crowther, and Lemont Ross: Capital Metro Transportation Coordinator and Business and Communication Dept.

1. Implement measure to provide safe pedestrian access to MLK jr. and Crestview Stations for light rail.
    - MLK Jr. Station
        - Activate signal at Alexander Ave. prior to opening of the rail station, to allow drivers to be accustomed to new rail crossing.
    - Crestview Station
        - Shorten pedestrian crossing lengths across Lamar Blvd. to enhance accessibility
        - Simplify the N. Lamar/ Airport Blvd. intersection, to address free right conditions, that allow unprotected pedestrian crossings.
        - Install audible pedestrian signals at intersection adjacent to the Crestview Station

Subcommittee Reports

Access Subcommittee

- Letter drafted to nominees that didn't win this year, encouraging accessibility improvements and self-nominations for next year has been sent out
- ADA restoration article passed out

Awards Subcommittee

- Texas Govenor's Committee Awards Winners, 4 winners out of 7 categories
    - Nancy Crowther- Governor's Trophy
    - Small Employer of the Year- Diedre Hunt
    - Large Employer of the Year- IBM
    - Martha Arbuckle Award- AMCPD Business of Work Seminar
- Martin Toohey of the Austin American Statesman agreed to be a judge for this year's AMCPD Employment Awards

Employment Subcommittee

Nothing to Report

Community Outreach/Media Subcommittee

Nothing to Report

Youth Initiatives Subcommittee

- Disability Mentoring Day will be held on October 17th at Goodwill Industries Community Center 12:30

New Business

- A motion was made by Commissioner Jesus Lardizabal and seconded by Commissioner Tanya Winters to accept proposed changes to SMART

Housing Program as presented by Director, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Paul Hilgers. It was suggested that committee get regular updates. The Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department was strongly encouraged to explore incentives to not further reduce percentage. COA to provide memo to council.

- Motion by committee to COA to increase Travis County Work Base Learning, and Summer Youth Employment funding.
- Committee will see Capital Metro proposal in writing, and talk with ADA taskforce before making a formal recommendation in writing.
- Ron Lucey Motion to recommend UN resolution to City Council for support. Chip Howe to draft formal resolution similar to Cambridge for council recommendation.

Calendar/Public Forum

- Brain Injury Support Group, Family Training Seminar 2nd Tuesday every month from 7:00pm-8:30pm at Mary Lee foundation gor more information call RuthAnn Cutler at: 443-5777
- 09/12/07 VSA Arts and Knowbility: No Boundaries Sight, Sound, and Soul La Zona Rosa doors open at 7:00 /Silent Auction
- 10/15/07 National White Cane Day
- 10/17/07 Disability Mentoring Day
- 10/19-10/20 CTD Film Festival
- 10/24/07 AMCPD Employment Awards@city hall 5:30pm-

Adjournment

The September 10, 2007 meeting of AMCPD motion to adjourn at 1:30 pm was made by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin and seconded by Commissioner Alyssa Eacono. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

Dolores to send members the United Nations Convention for further discussion at September meeting and action on resolution recommendation by NOD.

The next meeting of AMCPD is scheduled for October 08, 2007 at 12 noon. The meeting will be held in the Austin City Hall, Boards and Commission's Room (301 W. 2nd Street). http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/ada/amcpd.htm

Reasonable Modifications and Equal Access to Communications are provided upon request. Please contact Dolores Gonzalez at 974-3256 (v) or 974-2445 (TDD) or by e-mail at: **dolores.gonzalez@ci.austin.tx.us.**

Respectfully Submitted by

Alyssa Eacono, AMCPD Commissioner