

## Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities MEETING MINUTES May 14, 2012



### Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING  
(14, May, 2012)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on 14, May, 2012 at 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Jesus Lardizabal called the Board Meeting to order at 12:05 PM

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Jesus Lardizabal, Ron Lucey, Chip Howe, Norman Kieke, Kathy Kasprisin, George Luc, Tanya Winters.

Staff in Attendance: Dolores Gonzalez

1. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin to approve the May 14, 2012 minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman Kieke. The motion was approved unanimously by all.

2. **OLD BUSINESS** no old business conducted at this meeting.

### 3. NEW BUSINESS

**Presentation:** Christopher Florance, Web Content Manager, Public Information Office - An update and discussion regarding the City's web site accessibility for persons with disabilities.

- Web Redesign
  - It is the city's intent that the website redesign comply with the US Access Board Section 508 and be supplemented by accessibility guidelines from, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).
  - Why was web content management system, Drupal, chosen?
    - Drupal was chosen as the engine for the new City website because:
      - The engine is supported by a passionate group of developers dedicated to web accessibility.
      - Drupal has served as the standard in access for new federal sites.
      - The Drupal community supports and encourages accessible models and themes as well as trouble shooting bugs in a system for web access.
    - See more - <http://drupal.org/about/accessibility>
- AustinTexas.gov
  - There were a few accessibility audits made before the official City site was launched, the site when tested did well with only one major issue; still working on this one. Several smaller issues did come up during the audits.
  - After the launch of AustinTexas.gov a possible issue with color contrast did come up.
  - There is always an ongoing opportunity to improve site access and address issues through development sprints. Drupal is currently working with CTM on issues through an eight week program.

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- Recent developments
  - Due to knowledge loss that can occur from the staff changes, more than one person will be trained on using and being centrally familiar with the basics of Drupal.
  - CTM is looking for community feedback on the website, please provide feedback through the website from or send an email to [Chris.Florance@austin.texas.gov](mailto:Chris.Florance@austin.texas.gov)
- AMCPD Feedback
  - Vice Chair Ron Lucey asked if city was sending anyone to Access U, as there was still time to register for this workshop on Web Access. [www.Knowbility.org](http://www.Knowbility.org)
  - The Vice Chair also expressed a need for an enterprising testing tool, City is asking for a new quote from Site Check, a City vendor. Currently, the City is using Google webmaster to check web accessibility. Christopher said that Drupal may have a site check tool. Vice Chair Lucey suggested going out for bids to see what vendors might submit for such a tool.
  - Vice Chair Lucey expressed that reading pdf. documents on the web can be quite a challenge and asked what was being done to make reading them easier. Christopher requested a link to the pdf to see if there were any obvious problems that could be worked on. Vice Chair Lucey suggested training to address issues with pdfs and also suggested some cost effective tools to improve pdfs on site.
  - A question was raised by Vice Chair Lucey on whether or not web accessibility is required by the federal government. Christopher responded that web access is required by federal law and that such access is considered by the City to be very important. At that point, Vice Chair Lucey expressed the need for a City policy that would extend web access to sites for third party contractors with the City.
  - A concern was raised by Vice Chair Lucey during the feedback discussion about information from the old AMCPD website being lost. Christopher replied that due to the deadline for the new City website launch some data migration did not occur. However, content could be restored by being re-added to Drupal.
  - Chair Jesus Lardizabal, asked what was the City's priority for accessibility with the new site. Christopher responded that web access was at a high level of importance and one of the foundations for discussion when planning the new City website. Chair Lardizabal then asked what was being done to ensure that new content on the site would be accessible. Christopher replied that more city staff would be trained including departmental web masters. Chair Lardizabal asked if end users were trained as well, Christopher replied that City did outreach, but that more could be done to train end users for the new site.
  - Commissioner George Luc asked how user experience was being enhanced, and also asked the priority for migrating in house data to the new site. Christopher said that the adaptive grid included mobile traffic, which was trending 60% outside and 30% COA. Commissioner Luc responded by asking how the community could help. Christopher responded that CTM was banking on such community input and support. Vice Chair Lucey recommended a partnership with Austin Energy and the Office of Homeland Security's commitment to "no compromise to accessibility."

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Access & Youth Committee – Chair Tanya Winters**

- Committee Chair Winters attended City and County meeting on abuse of accessible parking, discussing mutual plans for education and outreach.
- The 2012 Access Awards will take place on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, nominations are needed and new and improved forms can be found online at: <http://austintexas.gov/austinaccessawards>
- Commissioner Winters encouraged nominations and that the deadline was approaching.

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- Commissioner George Luc is working with Lauren Kinast from UT on an Open House for students with disabilities that will include other universities. Dolores will send George the new DMD brochure for review.

### **Awards & Employment Committee – Chair Ron Lucey**

- The Business of Work Seminar hosted 69 attendees on April 30 from 8:30am-3:00pm. Lunch and breakfast refreshments were provided to seminar participants. Partners for the seminar include Capital Area Work Source Solutions and the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), UT HR Services, Goodwill Industries, Social Security Administration and Capital Metro. Commissioner Lucey described the Panel on Employers and Employees as being quite successful.
- The Awards Committee will begin to plan for the Awards program taking place in October for National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) honoring local employers. The first meeting will be scheduled in June.
- Commissioner Chip Howe is working on submitting AMCPD entries for the Governor's Committee Employment Awards Program; he asked whether the committee would be interested in submitting a nomination for Martha Arbuckle Award. The Committee suggested submitting a nomination for the Disability Mentoring Day Program lead by Denise Sonleitner; this year celebrating it's 10<sup>th</sup> year and having created a template for other DMD events around the country. Commissioner Ron Lucey has a recent news article that can be included as back up to the nomination.

4. **ACTION ITEMS**: No action items were recorded for the May 14, 2012 Meeting.
5. **PUBLIC HEARING**: No public hearings were held during the May 14, 2012 Meeting.
6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**:

Martin Kareithi, Capital Metro Transportation accessibility specialist, announced that fixed route service was being outsourced to Mc Donald Transportation and that Metro Access would now be overseen by MV Transportation. The effective date for the contracts will be August 19. Capital Metro will retain eligibility and scheduling for Metro Access. Commissioner Lucey expressed that he had received complaints about the cleanliness of buses, and Martin said that Capital Metro will look into the issue.

7. **STAFF BRIEFINGS**: Dolores Gonzalez

- **Budget**: report: There were no expenses this month, leaving a fiscal year balance of \$6,005.00
- Dolores and Carla Scales attended the Barbara Jordan Awards ceremony at Texas State University where Boone Blocker, Community partner representative and actor on PSA accepted the award on the Committee's behalf, doing a fine job of giving credit to Channel 6 for highlighting the importance of accessible parking to people with disabilities.
- The ADA Office held a successful pilot inclusion and awareness training that is being targeted to all PARC employees.

### **CALENDAR**

- July 13, 2012 Deadline Austin Access Awards Nominations
- July 14-17, 2012 Brain Injury of Texas Association Annual Conference July 14-17, 2012 at Austin Marriott South
- Aug 2, 2012 Austin Access Awards at City Hall 5:30 pm

## **Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities MEETING MINUTES May 14, 2012**

- Sept 14-15 CTD Annual Convention in McAllen, Texas
- CTD Pen 2 Paper deadline Aug 20, 2012 [www.cotwd.org/pen2paper.html](http://www.cotwd.org/pen2paper.html)
- Sept 29, 2012 CTD Film Festival at Goodwill
- Oct 5-6, 2012 CTD Film Festival South Alamo Draft house
- Oct 16, 2012 White Cane Day at Republic Square Park
- Oct 17, 2012 Disability Mentoring Day

### **8. Future Agenda Items:**

- Set up meeting to talk with City Council members, to unify talking points on supporting Visitability requirements added to City Code.
- Vice Chair Lucey recommended a discussion on a policy recommendation for web accessibility.
- Update on Boarding home requirements.

### **9. ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the May 14, 2012 meeting by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Chip Howe. The motion was approved unanimously by all.