

Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities MEETING MINUTES September 17, 2012



**Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

(17, September, 2012)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on *17, September, 2012* at 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

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

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

Staff in Attendance: Dolores Gonzalez

1. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin to approve the August 13, 2012 minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman Kieke. The motion was approved unanimously by all.
2. **OLD BUSINESS** No old business was discussed during the September 17, 2012 meeting of the AMCPD

3. NEW BUSINESS

Presentation: Ruth Wedergren, Public Awareness Coordinator-Providing information on Talking Book Program, the state's free library service for Texans with physical or visual disabilities that prohibit them from reading standard print.

➤ Introduction

- The Talking Book Program is a program that provides Braille, Large Print, and Digital Audio formats to people with reading disabilities.
- The program serves all ages, and veterans.
- Users of the program include people with muscular degeneration, physical disabilities, and reading disabilities such as dyslexia.
- All eligible consumers must apply for the program, and get certification from medical personnel (Doctor, Rehab Specialist, Counselor) in order to qualify.
- The program serves around 15,000 users and circulates over 500,000 publications annually.
- Eligible consumers through the program can pick from an extensive catalog of books, magazines and publications and get the items delivered straight to their door. All items are sent and return through the mail free of charge.
- Digital audio readers can be provided through the program at no cost to consumers
- BARD: Braille and Audio Free Download Service
 - Is a service of the National Library Service (NLS) providing over 28,000 books and over 70 magazines for users with reading

- disabilities. That can be downloaded and played through a NLS Digital Talking Book Machine (DTBM or a commercial DTBM).
 - To register go to:
<http://nlsbard.loc.gov/TX1A/ApplicationInstructions.html>
 - To download books and magazines after registering go to:
<http://nlsbard.loc.gov>
 - The program is currently seeking Spanish Volunteers to assist with Spanish speaking consumers to get publications available in Spanish.
- AMCPD Discussion
- Commissioner Ron Lucey thanked the Talking Book Program for 28 years of service. He then asked about the program incorporating new technology such as PC applications, and IOS for iPhones.
 - Ruth told the Commissioner Lucey that the program does not have a timetable for incorporating new technology quite yet; however the program was converting cassette books over to digital format.
 - Commissioner Lucey suggested the program reach out to school districts, but was told by Ruth the program is not allowed to advertise. He also suggested that program could have a booth at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI) Enrollment Fair.
 - For more information about the program please contact Ruth Wedergren at 463-5452 or go to the website:
www.TexasTalkingBook.org

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Access & Youth Committee – Chair Tanya Winters

- Committee Chair Tanya Winters announced Access Awards once more: Recipients included Firestone Tire, Lupe Tortilla, and Café Express, Costco, Hedgecock Dental, University Credit Union and Firehouse Subs.
- Community Representative Boone J Blocker announced that the Barton Springs Pool Improvements under the Master Plan had been approved by the PARD Board, **except** for the accessible seating on the South Lawn. He recommended that the committee provide testimony at the PARD and Environmental Boards regarding the accessibility improvements being planned.
- AMCPD Chair Jesus Lardizabal said the PARD board had decided that the South Lawn would stay undisturbed, but that PARD would consider moving the historical marker. It was finally decided that the historical marker would not be moved. Friends of Barton Springs Pool express support for accessibility improvements. A motion was made by Commissioner Ron Lucey to send a memo to the PARD board supporting the adoption of an accessible route to the South Lawn at Barton Springs Pool; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tanya Winters. The motion was approved unanimously by all.

- The exact wording for the motion is below:
 - Motion: The Mayor's Committee supports City staff recommendation to add an accessible route at the South Lawn at Barton Springs Pool. The accessible route would provide access to a historic marker as well as provide persons with mobility impairments the opportunity to enjoy the overlook of the pool. Furthermore, the accessible route will allow for persons with mobility impairments to participate in the many informal activities that take place in that area of the lawn. We further support the designer's recommendations to use natural materials such as decomposed granite for the route.
 - The Mayor's Committee supports that addition of the accessible route to help ensure that the City of Austin makes the many experiences of the Barton Springs Pool accessible to all citizens.
- Community Representative Blocker announced that eligibility for current Metro Access users would be for 2 month durations with no gap in services. The Capital Metro Access Committee had recommended 10-14 days of temporary eligibility for new users.
- The Capital Metro Budget adds incentives to staff to decrease lead times.
- The Capital Metro eligibility Office on Congress will be moving to 9th St and Lavaca in April 2013.

Awards & Employment Committee – Chair Ron Lucey

- Committee Chair Ron Lucey announced, this year's Awards will be held at The Crowne Plaza Austin (located at 6121 N IH 35) on Monday October 29, 2012 starting at 5:30 pm.
 - Committee Chair Lucey urged the public and committee members to submit online nominations for the Employment and Disability Awards at: <http://austintexas.gov/employment-disability-awards>
 - Chair Lucey announced that he and Awards Committee Member Katie Navine had secured four judges for the program including Dennis Borel and Robert Alexander, an area manager for DARS. The Awards committee was still trying to secure a keynote speaker for the program and was waiting to hear back from the new HHSD Commissioner.
4. **ACTION ITEMS:** A motion was made by Commissioner Ron Lucey during the September 17, 2012 AMCPD meeting to write a memo to the PARD board supporting the adoption of an accessible route to the South Lawn at Barton Springs Pool, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tanya Winters. The motion was approved unanimously by all.
5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** No public hearings were held during the September 17, 2012 Meeting.

6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:**

Carol Marak from HeathFindCare.com presented on this new online system that helps consumers responsibly hire personal care attendants. The system allows seniors and persons with disabilities to live independently, while assisting care givers, at minimal cost. The program helps seniors find out about the cost of care, the difference between self-care and self-care skills, and rate care givers by skills, issues, and cost. The system supplies care at low cost, while increasing jobs.

www.healthfindcare.com

7. **STAFF BRIEFINGS:** Dolores Gonzalez

- Budget: report: There were no expenses this month, leaving a fiscal year balance of \$6,005.00
- The Office is diligently working on the three signature events for October, White Cane Day, recently attended meeting with PARD staff on event layout, Disability Mentoring Day: matching meetings are going on now with more coming this week, and the Employment & Disability Awards, settling on entertainment; will be sending invitation soon.
- On September 29th CORE Health Foundation is sponsoring an event on the accessible fishing pier. The Committee is welcome to have an informational booth at the event.
- City of Corpus Christi - Dolores had the opportunity to meeting with ADA Compliance Officer for the City of Corpus Christi, It was a very productive meeting and she was able to share some information with the coordinator.
- ADA Onsites for the month Austin Energy and Aviation Dept.
- The Visitability Meeting: The stakeholders meeting to discuss visitability standards being included in the City Code is set for Monday Aug 20 here in the Boards and Commissions Room at City Hall at 2:30pm. This meeting covers a brief history of visitability and discusses current requirements.

CALENDAR

- Sept 28, 2012 Deadline for Employment Awards nominations.
- Sept 29, 2012 CTD Film Festival at Goodwill & CORE Fishing for All event
- Oct 5-6, 2012 CTD Film Festival South Alamo Draft house
- Oct 5-7 2012 Body Shift Dance Collaboration between VSA and Forklift Danceworks.
- Oct 16, 2012 White Cane Day at Republic Square Park
- Oct 17, 2012 Disability Mentoring Day at the MACC
- Oct 24, 2012 Texas Governor's Committee Awards Houston, TX
- Oct 24, 2012 Seton Disability Awareness Fair
- Oct 29, 2012 Employment & Disability Awards program at Crowne Plaza Hotel
- Feb-Aug 2013 TDLR Accessibility Academy Dates; check TDLR website

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8. **Future Agenda Items:** The committee would like to get an update from the Travis County Workbase Learning Program, and to see presentations on Emergency Planning and Fire Safety for people with disabilities.
9. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the September 17, 2012 meeting by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Chip Howe. The motion was approved unanimously by all.