



Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities MEETING MINUTES June 10, 2013

Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (10, June, 2013)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on 10, June, 2013 at 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

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

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Jesus Lardizabal, Vice Chair Ron Lucey, Kathy Keller, Norman Kieke. Absent Chip Howe -Unexcused, Tanya Winters -Excused

Staff in Attendance: Dolores Gonzalez

1. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Ron Lucey to approve the May 13, 2013 minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman Kieke. All approved.

2. **OLD BUSINESS:**

For discussion and possible action -Visitability requirements inclusion into International Residential Code; Discuss Working Group strategy meeting date and agenda and possible new or amended recommendations to City Council

- Chair Jesus Lardizabal suggested setting up a working group to address strategy for following up with Council concerns. Chair Lardizabal suggested incorporating some of Stuart Hersh suggestions along with others into a new working visitability document.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Ron Lucey to form an adhoc working group to address the concerns from council and invite interested stakeholders. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tanya Winters. All approved.
- Stuart Hersh told the committee that the recommendations for visitability were made years ago, but it was not fully support by City staff.
 - The changes the Council discussed in the hearing on visitability were few.
 - The City staff wants visitability for only new subdivisions being constructed, while the City the Council wants all construction to include visitability.
 - The Council has raised questions about the no step entrance requirement under visitability.
 - Stuart recommends that the committee issue the new amended recommendation to Council, in case there is not another opportunity to testify. Stuart told the committee that there would be plenty of transition time until 2016 to iron out any unresolved issues.

3. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Presentation: Martin Kareithi, Accessible Transportation Specialist, Capital Metro - and Chad Ballentine, Director of Para-transit Services. Presentation regarding recent policy and program updates. Specifically, presenter plans to update on the new "No show" policy for ADA para-transit riders and a program description of the Access-a-Ride non-ADA premium service.

- Capital Metro Updates
 - Revised No Show Policy
 - This policy has been revised from 4 no shows a month, to allowing additional flexibility for high frequency riders.
 - The revised policy is based on an 11% no show pattern, and offers to extend the appeal process to 15 days.

- Access-A-Ride Program
 - Access-A-Ride is a premium non ADA required taxi service. Its purpose is to offer premium on demand rides for unexpected outings, such as emergencies, date nights, and other miscellaneous trips.
 - The program is not intended to replace para-transit but rather to supplement it.
 - 75% of a taxi ride cost through the program is paid by Capital Metro; the remaining 25% is paid by the consumer.
 - Last month, according to stats there were 250 people using Access-A-Ride.
- Tether Strap and Marking Program

Capital Metro has launched a Tether strap & marking program for persons with mobility aids that need to be secured. This program identifies securement locations on mobility devices using tether straps or marking tape. It is a voluntary program. It allows for safe and proper securement of every mobility device every time.
- Question and Discussion
 - Commissioner Ron Lucey raised a concern saying because the taxi vouchers are used for times that could not be predicted (understand non ADA program?) the \$80 allotted each month through the program would not go very far to pay for all unexpected fares. Chad Ballentine responded saying the amount was based on an average of 4 trips per month to accommodate riders when they are not able use paratransit or the bus (emergencies, date night, etc.) He also said that the allowances could be rolled over month to month resulting in more money in the account of program users. Chad said that the contract for Access-A-Ride was competitively bided out among the local taxi companies.
 - Another point brought up by the committee was that cab fare had gone up but the monthly allotted amount did not. Chad responded saying that Capital Metro recognized the problem and is still looking at ways that the program could be improved.
 - Commissioner Ron Lucey also brought up the matter of the proposed rate increase by Capital Metro and asked how the disability community would be affected? Chad told the committee that Capital Metro was not yet ready to respond to the question. Commissioner Lucey went on to question Chad about how Capital Metro was dealing with driver responsibility to no-shows. Currently, Capital Metro has been very strict with drivers on what to do if someone was a no-show.
- For more information contact Chad Ballantine- Director of Para-transit chad.ballentine@capmetro.org or Martin Kareithi- Accessible Transportation Specialist martin.kareithi@capmetro.org

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Access & Youth Committee –Dolores Gonzalez for Chair Tanya Winters

- Committee Liaison Dolores Gonzalez reported on behalf of Committee Chair Tanya Winters
- The Access Awards Nomination Press Release was being finalized. This is an effort to get nominations from the public on their favorite places they like to frequent, who make

an extraordinary effort to provide a welcoming and accessible experience for patrons with disabilities. The nomination form can now be found online at:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/austinaccessawards> the deadline for submissions is July 11. The Austin Access Awards will be held on August 8, 2013 at 5:30 inside Council chambers.

- Commissioner Kathy Keller announced to the committee that she is the new committee chair for DMD along with Co-Chair Elizabeth Soto, the first DMD meeting will be held on June 20.
- Commissioner Ron Lucey reported that the Travis County Election Voter Taskforce reconvened and is moving forward with a new voting system using LED technology that is very accessible. The new system has a good track record, and the ability to re-count votes. A request for proposal is being drafted, and Travis County is applying for a federal grant with the Department of Defense to partly fund the system.
- A motion was made for by Commissioner Ron Lucey to draft a letter for the committee to support the new voting system being proposed by Travis County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kathy Keller, All approved.

Awards & Employment Committee – Chair Ron Lucey

- Committee Chair Lucey announced that he was setting up a launch meeting in mid-July to begin planning this year's Employment Awards Program.

4. ACTION ITEMS: action item recorded during the June 10, 2013 meeting

- A motion was made by Commissioner Ron Lucey to form an adhoc working group to address the concerns from council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tanya Winters. All approved.
- A motion was made for by Commissioner Ron Lucey to draft a letter for the committee to support the new voting system being proposed by Travis County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kathy Keller. All approved.

5. PUBLIC HEARING: No public hearings were held during the June 10, 2013 meeting.

6. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: There were no citizen communications for the June 10, 2013 meeting.

7. STAFF BRIEFINGS: Dolores Gonzalez

- Budget: report: There were no expenses the month of May, leaving a fiscal year balance of \$6,105.00
- ADA Onsite visits:
 - The ADA office has started the annual onsite visits with all departments. These meetings offer an opportunity to discuss requirements of ADA, communications, trainings, and to just check in and see if there is anyway the ADA office can assist City departments. In May, staff met with the Aviation Department and with the Austin Convention Center Department.
- Dolores updated the committee on the ADA symposium. There was not much new there, but the symposium offered good networking opportunities with the EEOC, Access Board, and other ADA Coordinators. The best session was on the latest court cases. One case discussed concerned on street parking, the result is to look at it like a program, although there are no clear standards. It was mentioned during this session that rule making process was coming regarding outdoor trails, medical equipment, captioning, audio description, and websites.

CALENDAR

- June 20 DMD Planning meeting at One Texas Center
- June 26-29 TDLR Accessibility Academy
- July 11 Austin Access Awards nomination deadline
- August 8 Austin Access Awards at Council Chambers
- October 11 & 23 CTD Film Festival
- Oct 15 White Cane Day
- Oct 16 Disability Mentoring Day at Goodwill Community Center

8. **Future Agenda Items:** The Committee would like to address an Emergency Center staff.
9. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the June 10, 2013 meeting by Commissioner Norman Kieke; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kathy Keller. All approved.