



Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities MEETING MINUTES March 09, 2015

Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (09 Mar, 2015)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on 09 March, 2015 at the Boards and Commission located inside City Hall at 201 W 2nd St in Austin, Texas.

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

Board Members in Attendance: Chair, Jesus Lardizabal, Vice Chair Tanya Winters, Chip Howe, Kathy Keller, Norman Kieke, Katie Navine. Absent – Ron Lucey

Staff in Attendance: Dolores Gonzalez, Lee Nguyen

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Norman Kieke made a motion to approve the February 09, 2015 minutes; Commissioner Tanya Winters seconded the motion. All approved.
2. **OLD BUSINESS:** For discussion and possible action
 - a. Transition Plan for new Committee
 - Dolores will set up a meeting to discuss the June transition for the new committee and establishing a plan of action. Chair Jesus Lardizabal, Commissioner Chip Howe and Commissioner Tanya Winters expressed an interest in participating and reporting back to the committee.
3. **NEW BUSINESS:** For discussion and possible action
 - a. Presentation: Dennis Borel, Executive Director, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities- Legislative Update as it relates to bills affecting persons with disabilities.
 - One of the key issues this legislative session is attempting to pass a wage increase for personal care attendants.
 - In Texas, 150,000 attendants make \$7.86 an hour with no benefits or leave accruals. Wages for attendants have seen a 30% erosion rate since the 1960s, which has led to a 100% turnover rate.
 - The current approved funding for wage increases this year is 60 million, but when it is spread over 150,000 attendants it results in a .14 cent increase per hour for each attendant.
 - Advocates are recommending a raise for the attendants' wages of \$10.00 an hour which translates into an increase in funding to 480 million, instead of 60 million.
 - The waitlist for independent community care services is currently 13 years long. The Texas House has approved a 4% reduction in the list, but advocates would like to push for a 20% reduction.
 - Biosimilars -Are generic drugs that are less costly than their branded counterparts. Advocates are supporting a bill to make it easier for patients to obtain them.
 - Guardianship alternative rights: CTD is supporting a bill that would grant people with disabilities more rights when under Guardianship.
 - Medical Marijuana: There are various groups advocating for medical marijuana including mothers to treat their children with Autism, paralyzed veterans, persons with Epilepsy, as well as, the senior's group, Texas Silver Hair Legislature.

- Mr. Borel handed out a contact list for state legislators, urging people with disabilities to contact their lawmakers and express support on these issues.

b. Discussion ADA 25th Anniversary

- The committee proposed a banner on the AustinTexas.gov website to celebrate the 25th anniversary.
- Commissioner Tanya Winters proposed a push for early nominations for the Austin Access Awards. The committee could hold a press event to encourage nominations.
- A proclamation of the ADA Anniversary to be presented at City Hall on July 23rd. Dolores will schedule this event.
- Chair Jesus Lardizabal proposed for the committee to release a document on marketing latest changes to Visitability. Chair Jesus Lardizabal will contact Development and Inspection staff to obtain details for a one-page fact sheet. Offering to collaborate were staff member Lee Nguyen and Commissioner Kathy Keller.

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c. **Committee Reports**

- Access & Youth Committee – Chair Tanya Winters
 - Committee Chair Tanya Winters reported to the committee that she attended the ADA Trail Blazers Event at the Bob Bullock Museum and presented the City Proclamation; overall the event was well attended and inspirational.
 - Committee Chair Tanya Winters noted that she had seen changes in the accessibility of sidewalks in the downtown area and thanked the City's Sidewalk Program for their effort to improve access.
- Awards & Employment Committee – Dolores Gonzalez for Committee Chair Ron Lucey
 - Dolores reported to the committee that the Business of Work planning meeting had not been scheduled.

4. **ACTION ITEMS:** No action items were discussed during the March 09, 2015

5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** No public hearings were held during the March 09, 2015 meeting.

6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** There were two citizen communications at the March 09, 2015 meeting of the AMCPD.

- Martin Kareithi, Accessibility Specialist, Capital Metro: June Service Changes
 - Starting in June, Capital Metro will increase the frequency of service to these local routes 7, 300, 20, 325, and 331. The Service Interval will be every 15 minutes.
 - Capital Metro is proposing a new route, #237 Northeast Flex. A public hearing on this change will be held on March 11, 2015.
- Alexandra Neinast -Texas State Independent Living Council: TXDOT funding
 - The focus for transportation will focus on seniors living in rural areas.
 - TXDOT is holding hearings, around the state and conducting a survey.
 - The deadline for survey replies is March 16. For more information please visit www.TransportationWorks.txsilc.org online or call 512-371-7353.

7. **STAFF BRIEFING:** Dolores Gonzalez

- Budget: report: There were no committee expenses in February leaving a fiscal year balance of \$6,005.00.

- Staff liaison Dolores Gonzalez notified the Committee that the ADA Office staff was finalizing work on the 2014 Annual ADA Implementation Report.
- The series of PARD ADA Inclusion trainings had trainings February 5 & Feb 18.

CALENDAR

- Mar 10 The Mary Lee Foundation will be screening the film Greatest Lesson at the Community Center at 1337 Lamar Square Dr. from 7:00-8:30pm
- May 11-13 Access University at St Edwards University
- Oct 14 White Cane Day

8. **Future Agenda Items:** no future agenda items were discussed at the March 09, 2014 AMCPD meeting.
9. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the March 09, 2015, meeting by Commissioner Tanya Winters; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kathy Keller. All approved.