



## Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities MEETING MINUTES June 08, 2015

### Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (08 June, 2015)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on *08 June, 2015* at the Boards and Commissions Room located inside City Hall at 201 W 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Ron Lucey, and Katie Navine.

**Staff in Attendance:** Lee Nguyen

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Norman Kieke made a motion to approve the May 11, 2015 minutes; Commissioner Katie Navine seconded the motion. All approved.
2. **OLD BUSINESS:** No items were discussed during the June 08, 2015 meeting
3. **NEW BUSINESS:** For discussion and possible action
  - a. Presentation: John Eastman, City of Austin Public Works Projects Manager: Sidewalk Master Plan Update Phase I: Peer Cities Report – Briefing and Q & A on the draft report and update on the Sidewalk Master Plan Update. To view the complete discussion including Commissioner's questions and comments please visit: <http://austintx.swagit.com/play/06082015-542> and view item 3a.
    1. Summary of current state
      - In Austin there is 2,360 miles of existing sidewalks. However there is also 2,270 miles of missing sidewalks. Of the existing sidewalks 360+ miles are private driveways.
      - Of 34+ million boardings on CapMetro each year, over 22 million boardings were by persons who walked to transit stop and had no options to use a car. 3 million boardings were by people with disabilities.
    2. 2009 Sidewalk Master Plan
      - The plan discovered a need for funding in excess of 824 million to build new sidewalks, and an additional 120 million to improve existing sidewalks.
      - The plan established funding targets of 5 million per year from 2009-2014 to address sidewalks. From 2015 onward funding would be increased to 9 million a year to address sidewalks as part of the City's ADA Transition Plan.
      - The 2012 Transportation and Mobility Bond set aside 25 million to fund sidewalk construction.

3. Best practices and improvements
  - The City's system to prioritize sidewalk needs has worked effectively, and effective cost analysis has helped the City to understand funding priorities.
  - Sidewalk maintenance needs a stable funding source in order to address the issue with existing sidewalks.
4. Update to Plan and Peer Cities Report
  - In the updated plan the City will update the GIS Prioritization system, incorporate best practices from peer cities, and review funding alternatives.
  - Austin ranks in the middle for sidewalks when compared to cities such as Charlotte, Houston, Nashville, San Antonio, Minneapolis and Seattle.
  - In terms of funding, Nashville ranks at the top of the list along with Minneapolis and Seattle who have well established programs spanning decades.
  - Austin ranks low among the peer cities in regards to funding maintenance for existing sidewalks.
  - Austin is in the beginning process of updating the Sidewalk Master Plan.
  - Access Austin-is a proposal to enhance pedestrian connectivity by completing high and very high priority sidewalks on at least one side of the street within ¼ mile of all identified schools and bus stops.
  - To learn more about the Sidewalk Master Plan update please visit: <https://austintexas.gov/departments/pedestrian-program> and to view the plan please visit: [http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Public\\_Works/Street\\_%26\\_Bridge/Sidewalk\\_Master\\_Plan.pdf](http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Public_Works/Street_%26_Bridge/Sidewalk_Master_Plan.pdf)
5. For additional information please contact John Eastman via email at: [john.eastman@austintexas.gov](mailto:john.eastman@austintexas.gov)

**b. Committee Reports**

1. Access & Youth Committee – Chair Tanya Winters
  - Committee Chair Tanya Winters summarized the purpose of the Austin Access awards and encouraged the commissioners and the public to nominate businesses. She announced July 17<sup>th</sup> as the deadline for receiving nominations.
  - The Austin Access Awards nomination form can be found under Mayor's Committee Activities at: <http://austintexas.gov/adacommitteeactivities>
  - Committee Chair Winters reported that the first planning meeting for Disability Mentoring Day will be June 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Chair Jesus Lardizabal mentioned that the document for Visitability was in the AMCPD packet. He reported to the committee that he had discussed it with the City, and he summarized the contents of the document. Chair Lardizabal answered additional questions about Visitability during the meeting from a citizen.
2. Awards & Employment Committee – Committee Chair Ron Lucey
  - Committee Chair Ron Lucey reported that he had provided testimony at the Health and Human Services Council meeting to support children of City employees with Autism by providing coverage for behavior analysis in the City's Health Insurance. The Committee had sent a recommendation to Council on this issue.

- Committee Chair Lucey reported to the committee that a Sunset Bill was passed at the end of legislative session combining the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The DARS Vocational Rehabilitation Program that has been a partner for the Business of Work Seminar and the Employment Awards Program will move to TWC. Committee Chair Lucey encouraged a continued partnership with the Program for future events.
- Commissioner Chip Howe reported to the committee that he was working on nominations for GCPD Awards.

4. **ACTION ITEMS:** No action items were discussed during the June 08, 2015 meeting.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** No public hearings were held during the June 08, 2015 meeting.

6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** There was one citizen communications at the June 08, 2015 meeting of the AMCPD.

1. Robin Orlowski – A Citizen, expressed difficulty walking on broken sidewalks and believes that having fully functional sidewalks on both side of the street would help citizens to access public transit in order to get to jobs and participate in society. She hopes that the transit plan for Austin is revised to reflect this notion.

7. **STAFF BRIEFING:** Lee Nguyen

- **Budget:** report: There were no committee expenses in May leaving a fiscal year balance of \$6,005.00.
- Staff liaison Lee Nguyen reported that on May 29 he submitted the Mayor's Committee Annual Internal Report to Boards and Commission Coordinator Deena Estrada. He thanked Chair Jesus Lardizabal and the Commissioners for the feedback they had submitted.
- The ADA office collaborated with APD's Risk Management Division to create training for officers to understand how to interact with people with disabilities. The training includes guidance from the Department of Justice on: wheelchair users, persons with cognitive disabilities, persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and persons who are blind or are low vision. With the help of APD's E-Learning Unit this training will be made available online, giving officers the flexibility to train on their schedule.
- Staff liaison Lee Nguyen reported that as part of the City's ADA compliance monitoring effort and continuing self-evaluation, the department has begun conducting the annual onsite meetings. The onsite meetings review ADA compliance obligations for departments in programming, facilities, communications, employment and training. So far the Office has met with HHSD, Austin Energy, Municipal Court, Building Services, Fleet Services, Code, SMBR, and ARR.
- Human Resources Assistant Director Judy Wallace thanked the Commissioners for their service and wished them the best.

### **CALENDAR**

- July 17 Deadline for Access Awards Nominations
- Aug 6 Austin Access Awards and ADA Anniversary Proclamation Council Chambers
- Oct 14 White Cane Day
- Oct 21 Disability Mentoring Day

8. **Future Agenda Items:** No future agenda items were discussed during the June 08, 2015 meeting.

9. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the June 08, 2015, meeting by Commissioner Ron Lucey; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Katie Navine. All approved.