



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

(11, February, 2013)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on 11, February, 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, Chip Howe, Kathy Keller, Norman Kieke. Absent: Tanya Winters

Staff in Attendance: Dolores Gonzalez

1. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Chip Howe to approve the January 14, 2013 minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ron Lucey. The motion was approved by all.
2. **OLD BUSINESS:** Discussion –Visitability Inclusion of no- step entrance in International Residential Code
 - Stuart Hersh expressed disappointment that Committee could not support the Imagine Austin Land Development Code change.
 - Chair Jesus Lardizabal asked what the benefit of trying to include the visitability recommendations in Imagine Austin would do to help further the initiative.
 - Stuart expressed that it would exclude opportunity to have more access and that by working with Imagine Austin the process could also move faster.
 - Vice Chair Ron Lucey said that he was not sure why the committee could not recommend action on both Imagine Austin and International Residential Code.
 - Stuart responded that the committee could only bring it up if the item were placed on the agenda for action.
 - Chair Lucey responded: why not go for both? If not mutually exclusive, why not do them both at the same time.
 - Chair Lardizabal then asked: if Stuart had approached the Planning Commission on the Imagine Austin inclusion?
 - Stuart replied that he had passed information to the Building and Fire Board of Appeals last week, but that the information was vague with no specifics.
 - Chair Lardizabal responded that in the Nov 28 meeting, the committee had agreed to add a statement as a place holder, and would iron out specifics using Fair Housing or other meaningful specifics.
 - Chair Lardizabal – for the record, the Building and Fire Board of Appeals voted to add the no-step entrance which was recommended by staff per stakeholder input.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Chip Howe to consider Visitability requirements as part of the Imagine Austin plan with the Land Development Code and for the committee to make a

recommendation to that effect. The motion was second by Commissioner Ron Lucey. Commissioner Lucey amended the motion with a recommendation to schedule a Special Called Meeting to discuss the visitability issue further and to invite relevant staff to that meeting. The motion was approved by all.

Annual Internal Report - A motion was made by Commissioner Ron Lucey to approve the Annual Internal Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chip Howe. The motion was approved by all.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Presentation: Randy Hester: Executive Director Variety of Texas– Discussion proposed Special Needs/All Inclusive Playground; providing a short overview of goals/plans. He would like received feedback from this committee.

- Contact Information
 - Variety: 512-328-3692 Randyh@varietytexas.org
Sarar@varietytexas.org
- About and Need for Accessible Playgrounds
 - Variety of Texas mission is to build accessible playgrounds in Austin. The organization assists special needs children and started off as an entertainment group to support the “No child left behind” mandate. The group holds a camp and retreat for children with special needs called the Blue Bonnet Camp.
 - In 2010, a new Executive Director came on board and found a need to address all-access playgrounds for everyone in the City. CORE Foundation did some research and identified a need to provide services to children with special needs. After looking at numbers of youth with disabilities being served by AISD, CORE started talking to City staff and found that there was a need to refurbish some playgrounds in South Austin for access.
 - All Access Austin is a good name and the group would like to hear from the Committee about ideas on how to implement the project. When All Access Austin spoke to the City, staff members liked the idea and were willing to give five key parks to the organization to renovate. All Access Austin wants Austin to be a shining star and example for others to follow.
- Discussion
 - Vice Chair Ron Lucey expressed it was a good idea to partner with the city. When his daughter was born, Vice Chair Lucey became an expert in accessible parks. He recommends that as part of planning for renovations to include access to all disabilities. He also said that the City already has programs for children with differing needs in movies and camps.
 - Commissioner Norman Kieke congratulated All Access Austin on the accomplishments they had made up to now and suggested the organization keep communicating with the City. He suggested that the Committee would be willing to help obtain support for the program from the City Parks and Recreation Department.

- Chair Jesus Lardizabal asked what the Committee could do right now to help with the organization's efforts and asked City Liaison Dolores Gonzalez to send the director/organization contacts for the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Vice Chair Lucey said that there are Friends of parks organizations throughout the City and once All Access Austin decides on which parks to renovate they should contact those groups for support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Access & Youth Committee – Chair Tanya Winters

- The committee did not have anything to report as the Chair for the committee was absent for this meeting.

Awards & Employment Committee – Chair Ron Lucey

- Committee Chair Ron Lucey reported that he had participated in the Community panel during the City's Diversity Program held on January 30, 2013.

4. **ACTION ITEMS:** action items that were recorded for the February 11, 2013 meeting included:
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Chip Howe to consider Visitability as part of the Imagine Austin Land Development Plan and for the committee to make a recommendation. Commissioner Lucey amended the motion with a recommendation to schedule a Special Called Meeting to discuss the visitability issue further and to invite relevant staff to that meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ron Lucey.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Ron Lucey to approve the Annual Internal Report the motion was second by Commissioner Chip Howe.
5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** No public hearings were held during the February 11, 2013 meeting.
6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** There was one citizen communications for the February 11, 2013 meeting.
Roy Whaley - Austin Sierra Club regarding the Barton Springs improvements Master Plan
 - Discuss access to South lawn. Mr. Whaley stated that the Sierra Club completely and enthusiastically supports ADA improvements.
 - The Sierra Club would like to make sure Barton Springs facilities are safe for everyone, but is opposed to a granite trail to the monument and overlook.
 - The reason he is opposed is that some trees may be negatively impacted by the construction of such as trail. The Sierra Club is looking for a compromise if the granite trail is still on the plans for renovating the Southside entrance.

- Chair Jesus Lardizabal asked why is a decomposed granite trail such a bad idea?
- Mr. Whaley responded by saying that he had spoken to one individual who stated "we want to enjoy what everyone enjoys." But, by having a path, it naturally erodes the area and makes the hillside ugly.
- Vice Chair Lucey commented that if a path is public, it must be accessible. Vice Chair Lucey requested that the Access Committee to take up the issue and make recommendation to whole Committee.
- Roy also stated that the Monument has still not been moved or decided upon.

7. **STAFF BRIEFINGS:** Dolores Gonzalez

- **Budget:** report: There were no expenses the month of January, leaving a fiscal year balance of \$6,005.00
- The ADA Office announces that the 2012 ADA Implementation Report is completed. Dolores will send out an email when it is posted to be website. If any commissioners want a hard copy please let Dolores know.
- The City of Austin Diversity Symposium was held on January 30, it was a great success and Dolores wants to thank Commissioner Ron Lucey for participating in the Community Panel representing the issues of the disability community. The panel has received great comments!
- The AMCPD annual report will be submitted to the City Clerk's Office before the March 31, 2012 deadline.

CALENDAR

- February 12, 2013 TBI Information and Training hosted by Mary Lee Foundation
- February 14, 2013 Public Meeting on DARS
- February 23, 2013 Easter Seals Annual Gala
- October 11 & 23 CTD Film Festival

8. **Future Agenda Items:**

- Visitability
- Barton Springs Pool issue.
- NHCD - ask to present at April Meeting
- Committee member Mitch Rappaport suggested - look at senior issue and durable medical equipment. Geared as an informational discussion. Is there is a City dept. that has a relation to it?

9. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the February 11, 2013 meeting by Vice Chair Ron Lucey; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Chip Howe. The motion was approved unanimously.