



Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities MEETING MINUTES March 11, 2013

Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (11, March, 2013)

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

Staff in Attendance: Dolores Gonzalez

1. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Tanya Winters to approve the February 11, 2013 minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman Kieke. The motion was approved by all.

2. **OLD BUSINESS:**

For discussion and possible action -Visitability requirements inclusion into International Residential Code and Barton Springs ADA Improvements

- Chair Jesus Lardizabal read the motion for Barton Springs; there were no additional comments from the committee.
- Visitability:
 - Chair Lardizabal read the motion on Visitability.
 - Dan McNabb explained the status of the issue with regard to the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals.
 - Currently, there is no language on Visitability and no-step entrance.
 - Public hearing on the issues will be held on April 11 and 24 to get feedback from the community.
 - The current, proposed language is open to interpretation so that staff can come up with specifics to meet the 2016 deadline. The Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals passed the current requirements for visitability in code as they exist today.
 - The Committee has options regarding those requirements, make changes that would need approval from the board, leave the requirements as is and make changes later through amendments to the code, or include changes in the IRC amendments process. Dan strongly encourages buy-in from other stakeholders on these options.
 - Stuart Hersh -his goal is to share the goals for more visitable homes.
 - He does not agree with staff recommendations to put all of the changes needed in one package.
 - He, instead, proposes that the proposal should only include elements that are not controversial into the base adoption process.
 - Mr. Hersh also suggests that the no-step entrance should be pulled out and descriptively noted to include the three conditions where a no-step entrance is not feasible.
 - (Per HUD requirements)The three conditions of infeasibility include: topography, certain historical homes, and alley ways or small lots He provided a document with said language regarding these conditions. see attached.
 - He recommends setting the framework for a conversation with Imagine Austin to change the Land Development Code long before the 2016 deadline. He does not recommend stalling the adoption process by

sending the current requirements back to Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals.

- He suggested that the committee makes its own recommendations to Council.
- A motion for the AMCPD to make a recommendation to Council using Stuart Hersh's submitted changes to the City Code was made by Commissioner Chip Howe; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kathy Keller. All agreed.
- Commissioner Tanya Winters encourages all commissioners to educate their appointed council members.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation: Carlos B. Lopez- Constable Precinct 5 - Discussion on continued partnership with Committee focusing on accessible parking through education, outreach and legislation.

- Newly elected Constable Precinct 5, Carlos B. Lopez stated that he ran for office in part to continue and expand the Disabled Parking Enforcement Program. He said they have been hoping the problem would go away with the program in place since 1995.
 - Several years ago the fines were increased to \$500 and still the problem has not gone away. Currently, there is a house bill #767 by representative Phil King.
 - This bill provides the opportunity for disabled parking citations to be prosecuted civilly or criminally.
 - It also allows a fine range up to \$750 for the first offense, giving judges more flexibility when ruling.
 - In addition to enforcement, the program launched an Outreach and Education component.
 - The education component includes meeting with community organizations and ask youth what an accessible community looks like.
 - The program regularly seizes counterfeit placards and placards that are used illegally.
 - Currently there are 26 volunteers, a dedicated staff member, and a dedicated deputy.
 - Educating businesses about accessibility is another area that the Constable's Office is tackling. The DPE program has launched an accessibility compliance community initiative by developing a brochure to provide information to businesses about their responsibilities regarding providing access to persons with disabilities.
 - Constable Lopez encouraged volunteers to join the program. The main requirements are that volunteers must be U S citizens, with no felony convictions and they have to go through four hours of training.
 - There are other areas that the Constable's office is involved with including domestic violence prevention, family preservation, mentoring youth with substance abuse issues, and helping the elderly

Discuss and suggest Council action

Presentation: George Zapalac - Proposed amendments for Chapter 25 of the City Code pertaining to the requirements for off-street parking in the Central Business District, Downtown Mixed Use and P-Public zoning districts in the downtown area of Austin.

- Current Requirements:
 - No parking for historic buildings
 - No parking for uses less than 6,000 sq. ft. in pre-1997 building
 - Minimum parking is 60% of normal requirement for residential, 20% for other uses
 - Accessible parking is based on total parking provided, not total required
- Downtown Parking Amendments Staff Recommendation
 - No minimum motor vehicle parking
 - Require accessible parking for uses over 6,000 sq. ft., based on either:
 - Parking provided
 - Parking that would have been required under old regulations
- City Council Action February 28, 2013
 - No minimum motor vehicle parking
 - Require accessible parking for uses over 12,000 sq. ft.
 - Allow on-street accessible parking within 1,000 ft. to count toward requirement
 - Allow conversion of on-street spaces to accessible spaces to meet requirement
- Committee Discussion
 - How do the staff recommendations comply with ADA? How does the ADAPT law suit apply to this proposal?
- Committee recommendations are:
 - Commissioner Winters expressed that accessible parking that is 1000 ft. is too far for someone with a mobility disability to use.
 - Chair Jesus Lardizabal questioned whether bullet 3 complied with the ADA?
 - Mr. Zapalac clarified by saying the intent is for a business that does not provide parking, to be able to use street parking to satisfy requirement.
 - The committee recommends changing the 1000 ft. to 250 ft. Another question was raised regarding if businesses could claim the same spot. Mr. Zapalac showed a map detailing affected area to discuss this point.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Kathy Keller that the AMCPD make a recommendation to support the proposed amendments for Chapter 25 of the City Code with the changes above, where on-street parking exists and technically feasible, there will be an accessible parking space made to ensure ADA compliance. This includes changing the 1000 ft. requirement to 250 ft. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman Kieke, all approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Access & Youth Committee – Chair Tanya Winters

- Committee Chair Tanya Winters - No report from the Access Committee.

Awards & Employment Committee – Chair Ron Lucey

- Committee Chair Ron Lucey reported that Access Committee will reserve the Criss Cole Rehab center on April 8 for the Business of Work job readiness seminar.
- Goodwill Industries is partnering with the City on the Career Expo on April 16

4. **ACTION ITEMS:** action items that were recorded for the March 11, 2013 meeting included:
- A motion for the AMCPD to make a recommendation to Council using Stuart Hersh's submitted changes to the City Code was made by Commissioner Chip Howe, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kathy Keller All agreed. Commissioner Tanya Winters encourages all commissioners to educate their appointed council members.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Kathy Keller that the AMCPD make a recommendation to support the proposed amendments for Chapter 25 of the City Code with the changes above, where on-street parking exists and technically feasible, there will be an accessible parking space made to ensure that ADA compliance. This includes changing the requirement from 1,000 ft. to 250 ft. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman Kieke, all approved.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Norman Kieke to move the monthly AMCPD meeting to April 15 and to rescheduled the meeting in Council Chambers, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kathy Keller, all approved.
5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** No public hearings were held during the March 11, 2013 meeting.
6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** There were no citizen communications for the March 11, 2013 meeting.
7. **STAFF BRIEFINGS:** Dolores Gonzalez
- **Budget:** report: There were no expenses the month of February, leaving a fiscal year balance of \$6,105.00
 - Goodwill Industries is partnering with the City on the Career Expo on April 16, it is scheduled at the Palmer Event Center from 1:00pm-6:00pm
 - Dolores is checking with NHCD to schedule them for next month's presentation April 15.

CALENDAR

- March 25-28, 2013 Bodyshift by VSA Arts
 - April 11, 2013 Access U by Knowbility ATC
 - April 10-12, 2013 TDLR Accessibility Academy
 - April 25-26, 2013 Brain Injury Conference
 - October 11 & 23 CTD Film Festival
8. **Future Agenda Items:** None were discussed at the March 11, 2013 meeting
9. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the March 11, 2013 meeting by Commissioner Norman Kieke; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kathy Keller. All approved.