



Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities MEETING MINUTES April 13, 2015

Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (13 April, 2015)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on 13 April, 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, Ron Lucey, Katie Navine.

Staff in Attendance: Dolores Gonzalez, Lee Nguyen

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Tanya Winters made a motion to approve the March 09, 2015 minutes; Commissioner Katie Navine seconded the motion. All approved.
2. **OLD BUSINESS:** For discussion and possible action
 - a. Transition Plan for new Committee
 1. The Committee reviewed Lee's draft and was impressed by the draft document.
 2. They recommended adding appendices for contacts for each event, sample press releases and proclamations. All current commissioners were willing to be added, as resources, to a list of former commissioners.
 - b. Discussion: Setting up a meeting with Mayor Adler; members discussed draft agenda for meeting. No changes were added.
 - c. The Chair and Committee chairs will be in attendance. (Jesus Lardizabal, Tanya Winters, Ron Lucey) In addition to the agenda, committee members agreed to bring a list of accomplishments and a brief fact sheet about the committee to the meeting.
3. **NEW BUSINESS:** For discussion and possible action
 - d. Presentation: Jim Padilla - Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Discussion on the FY 2015-16 Action Plan, a US Department of Housing and Urban Development required, including services for persons with disabilities. To view the complete discussion including Commissioner's questions and comments please visit: <https://austintx.swagit.com/play/04132015-540>
 1. Summary of funding elements
 - The Household affordability in Austin is a median family income (MFI) of 73,200 for a family of four.
 2. NHCD expenditures
 - 25.73 million dollars was expended this year, of which 42% came from federal funds and 58% came from local funds including municipal bonds.
 3. Architectural Barrier Program CDBG funded
 - This is a free City program that can provide up to 15,000 in home improvements for qualified individuals to make their home accessible, functional or safe. The program allows residents to remain in their home and increase self-sufficiency.
 - Improvements that can be made include: wheel chair ramps, handrails, shower grab bars, accessible sinks and showers.
 - This year NHCD has allocated 280,000 for renters and 1.3 million for home owners to make improvements under ABR. Currently NHCD has completed 64 projects, with 8 in progress and 11 in review by staff.

- To be eligible for the program citizens must be 62 years or older or severely disabled, their home must be in Austin, and their Household income must be 80% or less than the MFI of a household of 4 in Austin which is 60,300.
 - To apply for the program please call 512-974-3100, visit www.austintexas.gov/housing or mail in an application to NHCD, P.O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767.
4. Housing Affordability
- Overall renter income has not kept up with Austin rents; the median rent in Austin is \$200 more per month than in 2000.
 - Subsidized affordable housing rental units are concentrated in a handful of zip codes including: 78741=18%, 78753=10%, 78702=9%, and 78704=9%.
 - Accessible and Affordable housing close to transit is extremely difficult to find for persons with disabilities.
5. Timeline and Contact
- Public Comment Period begins on May 22nd. Public meetings will be held on June 1 and June 11 at City Hall. On June 30 there will be a final meeting to review recommendations and the plan will be voted on at City Council on August 6. On August 15 the plan will be submitted to HUD
 - For additional public comments please email them to NCHD@ausitntexas.gov, mail them to NCHD, ATTN Action Plan P.O. Box 1088 Austin, Texas 78767 or you can visit www.ausitntexas.gov/housingplan to find out more information or to engage with staff.
- e. Discussion ADA 25th Anniversary
1. The committee would like to explore an option for the Mayor and/or Council Member to present the proclamation at an external event, possibly with DARS.
 2. Lee will help to get the banner created to run on the City's Website during July.
- f. **Committee Reports**
1. Access & Youth Committee – Chair Tanya Winters
 - Committee Chair Tanya Winters reported that the ADA Anniversary Proclamation is scheduled for August 6, 2015 in Council Chambers.
 - AMCPD Chair Jesus Lardizabal reported that he is working with city staff to develop a one-page document on Visitability facts.
 2. Awards & Employment Committee – Committee Chair Ron Lucey
 - Committee Chair Ron Lucey reported that the Business of Work Seminar was cancelled due to low registration.
 - Committee Chair Ron Lucey mentioned the City Career Expo details; it is scheduled for April 14, 2015 in Palmer Events Center. He noted that it is one of the most accessible job fairs in the City with sighted guides and Sign Language Interpreters provided.
4. **ACTION ITEMS:** No action items were discussed during the April 13, 2015
5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** No public hearings were held during the April 13, 2015 meeting.
6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** There was one citizen communications at the April 13, 2015 meeting of the AMCPD.
1. John Woodley - He expressed disappointment in his accommodations provided by the City. He also expressed disappointment in this commission for not pursuing his issues before Council.

7. STAFF BRIEFING: Dolores Gonzalez

- Budget: report: There were no committee expenses in March leaving a fiscal year balance of \$6,005.00.
- Staff liaison Dolores Gonzalez notified the Committee that the 2014 Annual ADA Implementation Report could be accessed online at <http://austintexas.gov/departments/americans-disabilities-act-office>
- Dolores reported that the office would conduct two trainings on April 16 and April 22nd to conclude the PARD training initiative until September 2015.
- Dolores notified the committee that she will be retiring on May 11, the date of the next AMCPD meeting. She expressed to the members that it has been an honor and privilege to serve the committee. Lee will be the acting ADA Coordinator until a new person is hired.

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:** One future agenda item was discussed at the April 13, 2015 - the Committee would like to see a presentation in May from the Community Action Network on their disability statistics from their dashboard report.
- 9. ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the April 13, 2015, meeting by Commissioner Ron Lucey; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tanya Winters. All approved.