



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2016

Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) **is:**

The purpose of the committee is to encourage, assist, and enable persons with disabilities to participate in the social and economic life of the City, achieve maximum personal independence, become gainfully employed, and use and enjoy fully all public and private facilities available within the community.

- 1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

2015 Accomplishments

Austin Access Awards August 6, 2015 Presented at City Council Chambers

The Austin Access Awards was held on Thursday August 6, 2015 at City Hall, inside Council Chambers. The awards honor and recognize businesses with an exemplary attitude towards people with disabilities in accessibility and customer service. Council Member Leslie Poole read the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 25th Anniversary Proclamation and Mayor Steve Adler and MCPD Commissioners presented the awards to winners. This year's winners were 93.3 KGSR Radio Austin, Maudies Triangle, Minh's Café, and Smashburger Mueller Airport.

White Cane Day Oct 14, 2015 held at Republic Square Park

The 2015 White Cane Day celebration had the second largest attendance of any previous Austin celebration with 533 attendees. Starting with a march down Congress Avenue and ending with a day of festivities including music, food, and a rock climbing wall at Republic Square Park, WCD highlights the independence of persons who are blind or visually impaired. Mayor Steve Adler presented the WCD proclamation at City Hall in the plaza to participants. The Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities (MCPD) planned logistics, arranged for permits, reservations

and parking for the event. Additionally the office worked with the Mayor's Communication director and CPIO on the proclamation, and social media marketing. Major partners for the event included the MCPD, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, and the Austin Lighthouse.

13th Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) Oct 21, 2015 held at the Asian American Resource Center

This year DMD celebrated its 13th anniversary by drawing 27 student-participants. DMD offers career exploration opportunities to youth with disabilities in high school and college, by providing options to job shadow with professionals in a career they wish to pursue. City of Austin Council Member District One Ora Houston presented this year's DMD proclamation at the Asian American Resource Center during the celebratory luncheon. A panel of employers, who have a record of hiring persons with disabilities, provided insight to mentees on how to be successful employees. Ron Lucey, a former MCPD Commissioner, hosted a humorous open mic session that allowed mentees and mentors to tell the audience about their day. The MCPD provides logistical, registration, and marketing support for DMD. Major DMD Partners included the MCPD, Durden Group, Amerigroup, College Living Experience, Goodwill Central Texas, AISD, and Austin Community College.

36th Employment Awards & Recognition - October 19, 2015

The Committee hosted the 36th Austin Employment Awards at the Wyndham Garden Austin Hotel, drawing over 125 attendees. Attendees were honored with keynote speaker Veronda Durden, The Commissioner for the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services. Beverly Wilson, a staff member with Council Member Ora Houston, presented a Disability Employment proclamation on behalf of Mayor Steve Adler. The MCPD plans logistical arrangements, judging, event venue, marketing, and programming for this event. The Awards Program recognized four Chairman Commendation recipients and seven award recipients for their part in expanding employment opportunities for people with disabilities. In addition the MCPD issued a partnership award to VSA Texas honoring the partnership between VSA and the MCPD, to make the arts accessible to people with disabilities. This year's Award recipients included:

- -Small Employer of the Year Award; Bubble'z & Sudd'z Carwash
- -Medium Employer of the Year Award; White Lodging
- -Large Employer of the Year Award; Mueller H-E-B
- -Distinguished Service Award; Texas Real Estate Commission (TREC)
- -Employee of the Year Award; Lettie Jackson
- - Martha Arbuckle Award; Isabel Huerta
- - Media Award; Andy Pierrotti KVUE

City Council Recommendations

The MCPD presented recommendations to support providing Coverage for Applied Behavior Analysis for City employee dependents on the City's Health Insurance Plan. The Committee also supported the Code Department's Reasonable Accommodation Ordinance which would put into place a process whereby City Code and Zoning Regulations could be modified as a reasonable accommodation under the Fair Housing Act for individuals with disabilities to continue to live in their dwelling.

ADA Access and Sidewalk Task Force

Committee members participated in community meetings to discuss and make recommendations about the built environment and projects targeting accessibility improvements in the Public Works Department.

ADA 25th Anniversary Trail Blazers Event at Bob Bullock Museum

MCPD Commissioners attended the event and Tanya Winters, Vice Chair for the MCPD read the City's proclamation for the 25th Anniversary of the ADA.

Joint Inclusion Committee

MCPD Commissioner Tanya Winters was appointed by the Committee, to represent the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities on the City's Joint Inclusion Committee. This committee will advise the Council on issues pertaining to diversity and inclusion. The Committee is made up of representatives from various quality of life City boards and commissions.

Parks and Recreation ADA Transition Plan

During a presentation by the City's Parks and Recreation Department on updating the department's current ADA Transition Plan, the Committee offered feedback on several details in the plan including accessibility to recreation centers, and accessibility beyond facilities to include programmatic access to various disability communities.

Parks and Recreation ADA 25th Anniversary Celebration

During a celebration by the City's Parks and Recreation Department Inclusion Unit, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the ADA, MCPD Commissioners participated in a panel discussion as well as a mixed abilities dance routine designed to celebrate disability in the arts.

Public Works City's Sidewalk Master Plan

MCPD Commissioners listened to a presentation from the Public Works Sidewalk Program about the update on the City's Sidewalk Master Plan and offered feedback to the Program staff about various details in the plan, including the prioritization matrix, identifying gaps in infrastructure, and viable solutions for additional funding.

Visitability

Outgoing MCPD Chair Jesus Lardizabal developed a document to market Visitability to Austin home builders and developers. The Visitability Ordinance passed by Council makes it mandatory for home builders to include accessibility elements when constructing residential homes. In July of 2015 a No Step Barrier Entrance became mandatory, a major victory for advocates.

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities did not conduct any actions that were outside the scope of the committee's mission statement.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

2016 Goals

MCPD Committee Goals

Commission on Seniors

MCPD will collaborate with the Commission for Seniors regarding common issues, by conducting at least one joint committee meeting per year.

Joint Taskforce

MCPD will appoint a committee member to participate in the Joint Taskforce and report back to the full committee as necessary.

Public Relations

MCPD will establish a relationship with the public by increasing its social media policy and holding at least one public hearing or survey whereby Austinites with disabilities can express concerns about barriers, and offer their thoughts and concerns regarding city life.

Access and Public Policy Committee: Commissioner Danny Saenz, Chair, Commissioner Robin Orłowski, Commissioner Tanya Winters, Commissioner Marshall Mitchell

ADA Access and Sidewalk Task Force

Committee members will continue to participate in this task force and communicate concerns voiced by citizens with disabilities to Committee members.

Accessible Parking and Pedestrian Access

The Committee will continue to educate the community on the importance of accessible parking, including accessible parking laws and regulations, providing input where necessary. The Committee will continue a working relationship with the Travis County Constable Precinct 5 Disabled Parking Enforcement Program

Parks and Recreation ADA Transition Plan Update

The Committee will establish an advisory relationship with PARD and continue to hear presentations from PARD and review and provide feedback as PARD updates the department's ADA Transition Plan.

Public Works City's Sidewalk Master Plan Update

The Committee will continue to hear presentations from the Public Works Sidewalk Program about the update on the City's Sidewalk Master Plan. The Committee will review and offer feedback to the Sidewalk Program staff about various details that are being updated in the plan.

Transportation

The Committee will continue to voice concerns for the transportation needs of persons with disabilities, by inviting Capital Metro staff and Metro Access Advisory Committee members to provide updates. Committee members will continue to participate in hearings and meetings related to transportation. Additionally, Committee members will communicate items of interest to their respective Council Members.

Awards and Outreach Committee: Commissioner Tanya Winters, Chair, Commissioner Brian Owens, Commissioner Deborah Trejo, Commissioner Chris Masey

Access Awards

The purpose of this awards program is to recognize Austin businesses for their accessibility and welcoming attitude towards persons with disabilities in the Spirit of ADA. The Committee will distribute a news release seeking nominations. Staff will reserve a slot in the City Council meeting for the MCPD and Mayor to present the ADA Anniversary Proclamation and Access Awards to winners.

Employment Awards Program

The Committee will continue to work with the City's Corporate Public Information Office (CPIO) and Austin media outlets to provide interview opportunities for past and new employment award winners. The committee will request that the mayor send a letter to promote the employment of people with disabilities through the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) campaign *from the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)*. The committee will develop and implement plans to work with the media to generate a community conversation on the employment of people with disabilities during the month of October through CPIO.

White Cane Day

The Committee will attempt to reserve Brushy Park for October 12, 2016 and committee members will be participating in the planning group for this event. This event highlights the independence of persons who are blind or have low

vision with a variety of activities including a gathering at City Hall for the presentation of the White Cane Day Proclamation by the mayor, followed by activities at a local park to celebrate the day.

Employment and Education Committee commissioner
Chris Masey, Chair, Commissioner Tanya Winters, commissioner
 Brian Owens, Commissioner Diane Kearns-Osterweil

Disability Mentoring Day

This coming year, the DMD steering committee will host a DMD Poster contest. At the request of the steering Committee, the ADA Office will work to update the mentor list and re-design the Mentee application to make it a user-friendly online form. The Steering Committee will work to increase the number of mentors currently participating in the program, through an outreach campaign. Committee members will promote participation in DMD with the staff of Workbase Learning Program. DMD Chair will re-invite Community in Schools and Partners in Education to participate on the DMD Steering Committee.

Business of Work Job Readiness Seminar April 2016

Committee members will work with partner agencies to host this year's Business of Work Job Readiness Seminar. As in the past, the event will be set to coincide with the City of Austin's Community Career Expo – job fair in partnership with Goodwill Industries of Central Texas. This workshop is designed to assist persons with disabilities in improving their job seeking skills, including successfully interviewing for a job, writing an effective resume and dressing for success. Partners include: Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Workforce Solutions - Capital Area, Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, and the Social Security Administration.

Work-Based Learning/ Summer Youth Employment Program

The Committee will continue to provide feedback and review of this program, in order to hire more students and youths with disabilities. The program is designed to allow youth to be employed in summer youth paid internships to gain the necessary job experience to secure regular employment. The program hires a large number of youth with disabilities each year. The MCPD also funds an FTE for this program.