

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
April 3, 2014 MINUTES

Commissioners Present:

Esther Bennett, Luke Byram, Susan Dye, JoAnn Fritsche, Todd Holloway, Don Izenman, Roxanne Miles, Krystal Monteros, Gerrit Nyland, Gary Peterson

Staff Present:

Marya Gingrey, Gail Himes, William Yi

Guests Present:

David Lord, Dan Eberle

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order. The agenda was accepted as presented. The minutes of the March 6, 2014 meeting were accepted as presented.

Presentation: Disability Rights Washington – David Lord, Director of Public Policy

- Disability Rights Washington (DRW) is a private non-profit organization that protects the rights of people with disabilities statewide.
- DRW is the entity designated by the Governor to provide protection and advocacy services to people with disabilities in Washington State.
- DRW's mission is to advance the dignity, equality, and self-determination of people with disabilities. They work to pursue justice on matters related to human and legal rights.
- Priorities are approved every year by the DRW Board of Directors. DRW seeks public input to help us set the priorities.
- Some of the ways in which DRW does policy work is by getting people together and discussing policy implications before legislative sessions. Another way is to cultivate connections with media.
- Some of the ways in which DRW can help municipalities are in areas of voting and advisory councils.

REPORTS:

TACID Report: (Ken Gibson)

- Ken Gibson was unable to attend.

Director's Report: (Tansy Hayward)

- Tansy Hayward was unable to attend.



Human Rights Manager Report: (Marya Gingrey)

- Marya Gingrey announced that the Fair Housing Conference will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2014, from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center in Tacoma, WA.
- Registration fees have been reduced this year thanks to grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Fair Housing Assistance Program.

ADA Coordinator Updates: (Gail Himes)

- Gail Himes announced that floor plans of the Cheney Stadium party deck are available for review, in different sizes.
- Gail Himes and Chair Nyland will meet with Cheney Stadium management in order to address complaints on lack of accessibility. COD Commissioners are welcome to attend this meeting.
- Gail Himes attended FEMA training at Emmitsburg, Maryland for Situation Awareness and Common Operating Picture training. Gail Himes mentioned that emergency management is including more language for people with disabilities.
- The Mildred Street project, between 12th and 19th, will be repaved with new pedestrian crosswalks and curb ramps.
- The Tacoma Housing Authority project is in the middle of construction on Yakima, between 26th and 27th by Goodwill.
- Gail Himes met with the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and talked about ways the groups can work together to enhance the community for both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Center for Independence (CFI) Report: (Todd Holloway)

- The Washington State Independent Living Youth Conference will be held from July 21-July 24, 2014 at Seattle University. This conference is for young people with disabilities who are planning to go to college, get a job, and live independently in the community in the future.
- The Washington State Independent Living Council has a new Executive Director, Emilio Vela, Jr.
- There are currently spots available on the Washington State Independent Living Council. Interested individuals can apply online.

Open Forum:

- No speakers.



COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parking and Transportation

- No report.

Marketing and Communication

- No report.

Employment

- No report.

Built Design and Policy

- No report.

New Business

- Chair Nyland asked all subcommittees to work on their goals and bring it to the COD meeting on May 1 for finalization.
- Chair Nyland mentioned that during the PSHSE Presentation, the COD was given some feedback on tax incentives for businesses.
- Chair Nyland asked Commissioner Fritsche to come up with a list of suggested changes regarding taxi accessibility and also to do some more needs assessments and research in order to determine what the problem is and to craft potential solutions.

Stakeholder Group Reports

- Chair Nyland attended the Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition meeting in March. They are currently going through their grant cycle and examining what to do for next year.

Good of the Order/Announcements

- Chair Nyland announced that Commissioner Bennett wants to retire from the position of Chair of the Marketing and Communication Subcommittee.
- Commissioner Fritsche announced that the Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) Workshop will be held at TACID, Room 6 on Tuesday, April 8, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 PM.

Next Meeting – Thursday, May 1, 2014, 4:00-6:00 PM at TACID

