

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
September 4, 2014 MINUTES

Commissioners Present:

Luke Byram, JoAnn Fritsche, Don Izenman, Roxanne Miles, Krystal Monteros, Gerrit Nyland, Gary Peterson

Staff Present:

Nadia Chandler Hardy, Marya Gingrey, Gail Himes, William Yi

Guests Present:

Joan Eads

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order. The agenda was accepted as presented. The minutes of the August 7, 2014 meeting were accepted as presented.

Open Forum:

- None.

REPORTS:

TACID Report: (Joan Eads)

- Joan Eads is the TACID Interim Executive Director.

NCS Director's Report: (Nadia Chandler Hardy)

- Nadia Chandler Hardy is the Interim NCS Director.

Human Rights Manager Report: (Marya Gingrey)

- Chair Schuneman and Chair Nyland are in communication regarding the joint employment subcommittee.
- A joint Listening Session between the HRC and the COD is tentatively planned.

ADA Coordinator Report: (Gail Himes)

- The "Issues and Controversies: Arm of the Student Activities Board" from the University of Washington Tacoma Campus would like the COD to join them on campus and help teach faculty and students about raising awareness on disability. Commissioner Fritsche, Peterson, Monteros and Byram are interested in helping out.
- The City of Tacoma Design Manual is currently being updated.
- Research was conducted on the Tacoma Municipal Code regarding elevators. Gail Himes believes that the City of Tacoma can enforce the code regarding elevator maintenance in multi-story apartments and will reconvene with staff to discuss these issues.
- The Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan is in the early stages of development.
- Annie Wright School, Pacific Brewery, Marlene's Market, and some bridges are being remodeled.

Center for Independence (CFI) Report:

- CFI attended the National Independent Living Council (NILC) Conference in Washington DC.
- CFI held a Safe & Ready Workshop on August 12, 2014.
- A funding opportunity for statewide emergency preparedness is being developed by the SILC.
- CFI is continuing to work with stakeholders to create a statewide taskforce to better prepare PWD-PAFN (People with Access and Functional Needs) to follow the work started at PC Emergency Operations Center (EOC) addressing high risk populations.
- CFI will support the COD's recommendations to Pierce Transit.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review Commission's 2014 Strategic Plan and Goals

Parking and Transportation

- Schedule a meeting with Eric Huseby regarding ADA parking enforcement and creating a brochure regarding accessible parking.
- Potentially begin an education campaign on accessible parking.
- Draft a recommendation letter addressed to Pierce Transit regarding bus stops.
- At the Government Performance and Finance Committee meeting on August 20th, there was discussion of potentially taxing 10 cents per taxi ride to set aside and dedicate to accessible taxis.

Media and Communication

- Say Hey Tacoma will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2014 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM at Evergreen State College Tacoma Campus in Lyceum Hall.
- There are 3 nominees for the Disability Advocate of Year Award. Leah Thomas is the nominee for the Professional category. Dan Eberle is the nominee for the Volunteer category. Tammy Gonzales is the nominee for the Business category.
- Motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept nominees for Disability Advocate of Year Award.
- The Commission Year-End Celebration will be cancelled.
- Commissioners have attended and spoken at City Council committee meetings. Presented at the PSHSE Committee meeting.
- Increasing ADA accessibility of all City websites and vendor compliance has been relatively successful.

Employment

- More work needs to be done regarding tax credits for businesses.
- In regards to the joint committee for TMC 1.29 Employment Investigations, commissioners can volunteer and help with research.
- The review of City job descriptions and hiring policies, procedures and practices went relatively well. The hope is to bring individuals with disabilities in to test the

application process and potentially tailor some entry level jobs for persons with disabilities.

Built Design and Policy

- Work needs to be done to inventory better and looking at the next tier in terms of ADA assessments of parks and open spaces.
- Much work has been done to ensure ADA compliance in the Public Right-of-Way. Currently, the matrix work is being redone, such as minor tweaks to make it more readable, pictures, more language upfront, and if there is time, to update standard plans.
- No bids were received for ADA building retrofits.
- The COD memo was provided to the Fire Department regarding two general themes on guidance of the Emergency Plan. The three main takeaways are having Chief Green walking through natural disaster scenarios with staff, engaging partners to put and host trainings for home/personal assessments, and identify staff response areas and what their roles are.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parking and Transportation

- No report.

Marketing and Communication

- No report.

Employment

- No report.

Built Design and Policy

- No report.

Stakeholder Group Reports

- Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition
 - No report.
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group
 - The Transportation Plan is currently being worked on.
- City of Tacoma Transportation Commission
 - No report.

Good of the Order/Announcements

- None.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Next Meeting – Thursday, October 2, 2014, 4:00-6:00 PM at TACID