

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

September 5, 2013 MINUTES

Commissioners Present:

Esther Bennett, Susan Dye, JoAnne Fritsche, Don Izenman, Roxanne Miles, Linda Moran, Gerrit Nyland, Gary Peterson, Lois Stark

Staff Present:

Gail Himes, Tansy Hayward, Marya Gingrey

Guests Present: Ken Gibson (TACID), Deputy Chief Tory Green, Program Manager Carolyn Morris, Program Coordinator Laura Morris, Haley Edick, Frank Gavaldon, Genal Gavaldon

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order. The agenda was accepted as presented. The minutes of the August 1, 2013 meeting were accepted as presented.

Presentation: Fire Dept. Cares Program - Deputy Chief Tory Green, Carolynn Morris, Program Manager and Laura Morris, Program Coordinator:

- Deputy Chief Green reported on the FD Cares Program, which was modeled from a program out of Kent, WA. This program is designed to address the needs of people who have on-going medical and non-urgent personal issues and have no other resources to refer to than emergency services. FD Cares Program means FD *Community Assistance Referral and Education Services*.
- There are three components of the FD Cares Program:
 - Identification of people who have high needs for non-urgent issues.
 - Partnership with University of Washington – Tacoma to utilize graduate-level student nurses.
 - In-home care services where paramedics assist citizens who have been discharged from hospitals to make sure they are receiving proper care and understand the resources available to them.

Presentation: Human Rights Commission Review of Strategic Plan and Goals; Update on suggested changes to TMC Chapter 1.29 - Human Rights Manager, Marya Gingrey:

- Ms. Gingrey shared with the Commission on Disabilities about partnership opportunities that the Human Rights Commission may join with the COD.
- Ms. Gingrey shared the Human Rights Commission review of Strategic Plan and Goals for 2013-14. The Human Rights Commission has 6 goals:
 - Increase understanding of human rights issues and the Human Rights Commission activities within Tacoma and the surrounding community.
 - Select Human Rights Champion Award Recipient(s) once each quarter.
 - Review Chapter 1.29 and HRC Administrative Rules and make recommendations to Council that resolve conflicts between the two documents.



- Educate the City Council and community about employment opportunities, barriers and current issues arising from employment conditions in the City of Tacoma.
- Evaluate human rights implications of previous offenders/barriers and issues – especially related to housing and employment.
- Evaluate and respond to emerging social justice issues within the community.

Director’s Report: (Tansy Hayward)

- Director Hayward reported about funding from the Public Works budget that was available for ADA accessible streets.
- She also covered the most current budget numbers available on transportation taxes.

TACID Report (Ken Gibson):

- None.

Public Open Forum:

- Haley Edick, a former commissioner, wanted to ask why there were bumps put in at the curb ramps? Earlier this year, Ms. Edick had requested an audible signal at the crosswalk of 12th and Pearl Streets. Ms. Himes is working with Ms. Edick to possibly have audible signals installed at 12th and Pearl Streets. Because this intersection has not been upgraded with new curb ramps, the entire intersection would need to be upgraded in order to install an audible signal.
- Frank Gavaldon, a former Human Rights Investigator with the City of Tacoma, raised the question about the current Human Rights staff and how they relate to and service citizens with disabilities in relationship to EEOC and ADA complaints filed with the City of Tacoma Human Rights Commission.

New Business Items:

- None

Committee Reports:

- **Parking Enforcement:** (Commissioners Dye and Chair Nyland): -
 - None.
- **Public Right of Way and Transportation Committee:** (Commissioners Dye, Izenman, Stark and Chair Nyland): –
 - Ms. Himes reported on the status of the Curb Ramp money to be used throughout the city. The COD has requested that the focus be on bus stops near hospitals. Ms. Himes has worked with engineers to design curb ramps for 6th & I Streets near Tacoma General Hospital. She has worked with contractors to make sure that there was pedestrian access and the area is ADA compliant during construction. Construction should begin approximately September 10 and construction should be completed within 40 working days.
 - Ms. Himes continues to work with citizens who have complaints about their neighborhood not being ADA compliant. She shared one story about a citizen who uses a walker and was having difficulty getting around her neighborhood because of broken and heaved



- sidewalks and nonexistent or unusable curb ramps.
- Tacoma School District is using a bond to remodel some of their school. They will do the upgrades in two phases. The first phase will be to work on the ball field, take out the tennis courts, etc. Phase two, which will be completed in 2015, will be to work on curb ramps and walkways.
- **Emergency Management and Public Safety** (Commissioners Moran, Porret and Stark): –
 - None.
- **City Parks** (Commissioners Stark, Miles):
 - None.
- **Effective Communication and COD Website:** (Commissioners Bennett, Fritsche and Izenman):
 - Commissioner Bennett reported on the Effective Communication committee met and reviewed the Disability Advocate of the Year Award nominations. She made their recommendations to the commission. The awards will be given at a city council meeting in October, as soon as they are scheduled on the agenda. Several businesses have been nominated. The Effective Communication committee recommends **Osheas Catering & Events** as the Business Disability Advocate of the Year. They are very committed to hiring persons with disabilities. The Effective Communication committee recommends **Trina Forest** as the Professional Advocate of the Year. The Effective Communication committee recommends **Matthew Newton** as the Volunteer Advocate of the Year.
 - Commissioner Bennett reported about the ‘Say Hey Tacoma’ event, which is the celebration of employment for Individuals with disabilities. This event will be held at Evergreen College – Tacoma this year on Wednesday, September 18 from 4:00-6:00pm.
 - **ADA Web Accessibility Committee Team (Gail Himes, Gerrit Nyland):**
 - None.
- **City-Owned Facilities Retrofits (Commissioners Peterson and Porret)**
 - Commissioner Peterson and Ms. Himes reported about the status of the city-owned retrofits.
- **Employment, Contracting and Licensing:** (Commissioners Bennett, Fritsche, Moran and Peterson, Gail Himes):
 - None.

Stakeholder Group Reports:

- Sound Transit Tacoma Link Extension Project: Commissioner Stark –
 - ◆ None.
- Prairie Line Trail Task Force: Commissioner Stark –
 - ◆ None.



- Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition: Chair Nyland –
 - ♦ None.

Good of the Order/Announcements:

- Chair Nyland suggested that the COD send out an official thank you to *Tucci & Sons* for their good work. Commissioner Stark suggested that the COD publically acknowledge *Tucci & Sons* for their good work at a City Council meeting.
- Commissioner Stark mentioned that Metro Parks is partnering with a foundation, *Outdoors for All* to enjoy the waterfront. If anyone who attends needs special equipment to enjoy the waterfront, please contact *Outdoors for All Foundation*.
- Commissioner Stark mentioned that she had attended a baseball game at Cheney Stadium with her friends and family. They noticed that there were multiple groups of people with special needs who attended the game.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Next Meeting – October 3, 2013, 4:00-6:00pm at TACID

