

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

February 6, 2014 MINUTES

Commissioners Present:

Susan Dye, JoAnn Fritsche, Don Izenman, Roxanne Miles, Linda Moran, Gerrit Nyland, Gary Peterson

Staff Present:

Gail Himes, Marya Gingrey

Guests Present: Luke Byram, Dan Eberle, David Edick & son, Hailey Edick, Leon Huggins, Dale Kosier, Patt Kosier, Thu-Ha Le, Tim Renfro

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order. The agenda was accepted as presented. The minutes of the November 7, 2013 meeting were accepted as presented.

Presentation: Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center – Thu-Ha Le, Client Advocate

- Thu-Ha Le reported that the Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center has three locations (Tacoma, Seattle and Bellingham).
- The Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center is a non-profit organization and provides services free of charge.
- The mission of the Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center is to strengthen communities by promoting effective communications, by empowering people, removing barriers and providing advocacy for successful living.
- Services provided are advocacy, information & referral, education, training and outreach.
- The Hearing Speech & Deafness Center assists clients in understanding and obtaining appropriate accommodations for their communication needs, in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- The Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center staff are available to answer questions on a variety of topics, from interpreters to health care to housing, and to refer qualified service providers in the area.
- Free basic ASL (American Sign Language) classes will be offered during the Spring 2014. Those interested can contact the HSDC South Sound office at 253-475-0782 or 866-421-5560.

Presentation: Pierce Transit – Tim Renfro, ADA Administrator

- Mr. Renfro provided brand new 'The Bus Stops Here' booklets.
- Mr. Renfro oversees the shuttle program, oversees travel training and works with coordinated transfer patient. This is where Pierce Transit works with other social service organizations in the community. He also searches for types of funding to address the program and needs of the community.
- Mr. Renfro provided the statistic of ADA applications that Pierce Transit receives per year.
- Mr. Renfro supplied information about the process that a person with disabilities must supply to Pierce Transit in order for them to be eligible for shuttle service.



➤ **SHUTTLE CERTIFICATION PROCESS:**

- To become eligible for SHUTTLE, you must complete a certification process. This involves filling out an application explaining the limitations caused by your disability. The certification process may take up to 21 days after we receive your completed application. After being certified, you may call from one to five days in advance of the day you wish to travel to request a trip.
- If you believe you, or someone you know, may qualify for SHUTTLE service, please contact SHUTTLE Eligibility at **(253) 581-8000** and request an application. An application form will be promptly mailed to you. Or [download](#) the form and mail it to: **PO Box 99070, 3701 96th St. SW, Lakewood, WA 98496-0070.**
- If you do not qualify for SHUTTLE or are outside the SHUTTLE service area, you can get information about transportation options by dialing: **WIN 211 – Washington Information Network: 2-1-1 or 253.572.4357 | 1.800.572.4357 | win211.org**

Open Forum:

- Dan Eberle reported about an update of the Pierce County Accessible Community Advisory Committee application which has been completed and gone to the Pierce County Auditor's Office, the County Executive office and has gone to the Pierce County Board for approval. After approval, it will go to the Governor's Committee.
- Dan Eberle reported that an upcoming Pierce County Board Appreciation Day that will be held at Clover Park Technical College on March 15 from 9:00am-12:00 noon.
- Dan Eberle reported that the Pierce County Board has taken the position to not license local taxi cabs and to refer all taxi cab licensing to the City of Tacoma. This is due to specific requirements that the City of Tacoma has in regards to taxi cab services.
- Ms. Edick wanted to commend the City of Tacoma for responding to her request to put braille lettering on the top of each waste can lid so that she could be able to distinguish between the different waste cans. She advised anyone who is sight impaired, call the City of Tacoma Solid Waste Management to request waste cans with braille lettering on top of the lids. The Solid Waste Management also told Ms. Edick that they would haul the waste cans down to the street to empty them, if she was unable to do so.

Election of Officers:

- Nominees for Vice Chair are Commissioners Dye and Miles. Commissioner Dye withdrew her name from Vice Chair. Commissioner Miles said that she was willing and able to fill in wherever the Commissioner On Disabilities needs her.
- A motion was made and seconded to close nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.
- Since there was only one nominee for each position, a motion was made and seconded to accept the nominees into office as presented. Commissioner Nyland will continue as Chair and Commissioner Miles will continue as Vice Chair.

REPORTS:

Director's Report: (Tansy Hayward)

- Ms. Hayward was not able to attend.



TACID Report (Ken Gibson):

- Mr. Gibson was not able to attend.

Human Rights Manager Report (Marya Gingrey):

- Ms. Gingrey reported that the City of Tacoma was looking for committee members to participate in the City Charter Review Process. The first meeting will be occurring on Monday, February 11 in the City Council Chambers.
- On Thursday, May 22, the 28th Annual Fair Housing Conference will be held at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center from 8:30am to 4:00pm. More details concerning workshops topics will follow.

ADA Coordinator Updates (Gail Himes):

- Ms. Himes handed out the COD Retreat Notes, the 2013 COD Goals and Accomplishments, the ADA Coordinator's 2013 Work Output and Accomplishments, and the list of 2014 Sub-Committee Structure to each commissioner.
- Chair Nyland suggested that each sub-committee meet, if possible, before next month's meeting. At that meeting, the commissioners will discuss the goals and objectives for each sub-committee. The COD will meet with the City Council members on March 27.

Good of the Order/Announcements:

- Patt Kosier recently became the Executive Director at the Center for Independence. Ms. Kosier reported that they are currently recruiting new board members.
- Vice Chair Miles reported that the Metro Parks Board will decide if they wish to pursue a Ballot Measure which will include accessibility related safety issues.
- Vice Chair Miles also reported that there would be a 'Because Parks Matter' luncheon event that is scheduled on Wednesday, February 26 at the Star Center from 11:30am-1:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Next Meeting – March 6, 2014, 4:00-6:00pm at TACID

