

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

March 6, 2014 MINUTES

Commissioners Present:

Luke Byram, JoAnn Fritsche, Todd Holloway, Don Izenman, Roxanne Miles, Krystal Monteros, Linda Moran, Gerrit Nyland, Gary Peterson

Staff Present:

Tansy Hayward, Marya Gingrey, Gail Himes, William Yi

Guests Present:

Dan Eberle, Lindsey Trainer, Steffi Range, John Houck, Michael Faluchi

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

Welcome New Board Members:

- The new COD Commissioners were formally introduced. Their names are Luke Byram, Todd Holloway, and Krystal Monteros.

REPORTS:

Director's Report: (Tansy Hayward)

- Director Tansy Hayward reported that the City Council held their annual planning session two weeks ago. Two strategic objectives that emerged for 2014 were an equity and empowerment objective as well as a review of employment policies.
- The City Council identified two business districts that they wanted to invest in: South Tacoma Business District and the Lincoln Business District.
- The Human Services Commission is in the process of updating their strategic plan.
- The NCS Department's Code Enforcement and Compliance section is currently conducting a citywide survey to educate businesses and communities about property improvement opportunities and obligations.
- The Fiscal Sustainability Taskforce wants the City of Tacoma to develop a better budget framework.

TACID Report: (Ken Gibson)

- Executive Director Ken Gibson reported that TACID's short term goals have been to move through three phases: survival, sustainability, and growth. TACID has successfully accomplished the "survival" phase and is currently in the "sustainability" phase.



- The Supportive Housing Program (SHP) has transferred between TACID, Pierce County and MDC. TACID is collaborating with Access Point for Housing and is in the process of entering into an MOU with MDC to provide support services for MDC housing consumers.
- TACID's board has conducted a self-evaluation and is in the process of exploring and developing new priorities for its work with people with disabilities.
- TACID is working in collaboration with members, volunteers and interns on developing new standard operating procedures and programs to address recent, significant changes.
- Stand Up for Mental Health is a comedy show/performance. It will be held on Friday, March 28, 2014 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the TCC Auditorium in building 2. Tickets can be purchased online by going to: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/stand-up-for-mental-health-tickets-10437040469?aff=es2&rank=0>

Human Rights Manager Report (Marya Gingrey):

- Marya Gingrey mentioned that the Human Rights Commission (HRC) and the COD will have opportunities to partner together throughout the year because both commissions have similar goals and purposes.
- The HRC meets on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in room 248 in the Tacoma Municipal Building.
- The HRC Chapter 1.29 Subcommittee is reviewing the language consistency, policy implications and process review regarding Tacoma's anti-discrimination laws. They will be reviewing the suggestion made by the COD – to reduce the number of employees regarding jurisdiction required under the municipal code – and bring forth a proposal in the next few months.

ADA Coordinator Updates (Gail Himes):

- Gail Himes will be scheduling orientation for the new Commissioners in the next couple of weeks.
- Gail Himes recently attended FEMA training at Emmitsburg, Maryland for Situation Awareness and Common Operating Picture training.
- Gail Himes joined the Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (PCCTC) for Emergency Management Accessible Transportation.
- Gail Himes mentioned that a lot of work was done on Cheney Stadium during the remodel, making it more accessible. The party deck is being remodeled. Gail will let the Commission know when the plans are ready for review.

Open Forum:

- John Houck urged the COD to familiarize themselves and educate their constituents with Proposition #1, which is a capital bond measure for park and zoo accessibility improvements and safety upgrades across Tacoma.
- Dan Eberle announced that there will be a final Council hearing on establishing the Pierce County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 1045 at the County-City Building.
- Dan Eberle announced that Pierce County's Volunteer Recognition Brunch will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the McGavick Conference Center in Clover Park Technical College.





To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation for this event, please contact Gail Himes, (253) 591-5785; TTY (253) 591-5153

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parking and Transportation

- Chair Nyland announced that the sub-committee's goals are to increase the number of accessible parking spots and accessible taxis in the City of Tacoma.
- Dan Eberle expressed the desire to take the lead on accessible taxis through education and outreach.
- Executive Director Gibson announced that the Pierce Transit Advisory Board holds public meetings on the third Thursday every month.

Marketing and Communication

- Commissioner Moran announced that there will be a presentation at a workshop on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at TACID in room 23, to educate individuals with disabilities on how to navigate the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) process.
- Chair Nyland reported that the ADA Web Accessibility Team is trying to make websites accessible in the City of Tacoma.
- Commissioner Fritsche welcomed collaboration to help create marketing approaches that can help the COD.
- Commissioner Moran reported that the COD recruitment goal was to look for people with certain skillsets, passions, and that are interested in applying to help out the COD.

Employment

- Commissioner Moran suggested that Chapter 1.29 of the Tacoma Municipal Code regarding employment investigations be revised to reduce the number of employees required for jurisdiction from eight to one.
- Director Hayward said that the equity and empowerment initiative from City Council will include addressing employment barriers.

Built Design and Policy

- Vice-Chair Miles reported that the COD wants to make recommendations to the Environmental Services Department in making open spaces more accessible.

New Business:

- Chair Nyland announced that the COD presentation to the PSHSE Committee is on Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in the Tacoma Municipal Building in room 248. The presentation will highlight the COD's accomplishments.
- Chair Nyland announced that there will be a Committees, Boards and Commissions Training held by the City Clerk's Office on Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Stakeholder Group Reports

- Chair Nyland was unable to attend the Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition meeting.



Good of the Order/Announcements

- Chair Nyland attended a City of Tacoma meeting with Sound Transit on out of compliance areas in the recently completed D to M street project.
- Executive Director Gibson encouraged the COD to advocate for disability rights by uniting the Disability community and acting on their passion and energy.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Next Meeting – Thursday, April 3, 2014, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at TACID

Action Steps

- Send orientation materials to new commissioners

