

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
August 7, 2014 MINUTES

Commissioners Present:

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

Staff Present:

Tansy Hayward, Marya Gingrey, Gail Himes, William Yi

Guests Present:

Lisa Wojtanowicz, Sue Coffman, David Johnson, Matt Patera, Genal Gavaldon, Julina Hoptowit, Frank Gavaldon, Bertha Horne

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order. The agenda was accepted as presented. The minutes of the July 3, 2014 meeting were accepted as presented.

Presentation: Accessible Housing in Tacoma – Planning and Development Services - David Johnson, Building Official; Sue Coffman, Division Manager; Community Services - Lisa Wojtanowicz, Division Manager.

- Presenters discussed about the ways in which the City of Tacoma is involved with accessibility.
- For the construction of new buildings, things that are examined are having an accessible route, accessible entrances, parking & passenger loading facilities, dwelling and sleeping units, special occupancies, other features/facilities and signage.
- For existing buildings, the accessibility goals are having at least one accessible building entrance, at least one accessible route from entrance to primary function areas, signage, accessible parking, at least one accessible passenger loading zone, and accessible route from parking/loading to accessible entrance.
- Building code changes over time and facilities can become more accessible incrementally.
- Improvements that are being worked on are having peer reviews, site visits for existing building reviews, and accessibility training and certifications.
- The ways in which community can get involved are through education, Tacoma Cares, and code development.

Open Forum:

- Frank Gavaldon talked about human rights in Tacoma.
- Julina Hoptowit talked about her experiences with a previous employer.
- Commissioner Fritsche encouraged Julina Hoptowit to seek resources from TACID and CFI.

REPORTS:

NCS Director's Report: (Tansy Hayward)

- The Human Services Strategic Plan has been adopted by City Council.
- On August 20, 2014, the Government Performance and Finance Committee will revisit rideshare and taxi services.
- The Minimum Building and Structures Code survey is available online.
- The City Services Questionnaire is available.

Human Rights Manager Report: (Marya Gingrey)

- No report.

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

- The Washington State Youth Conference was held at Seattle University from July 20 – July 24, 2014.
- The Annual National Council of Independent Living Conference was held in Washington DC, July 28 – 31, 2014.
- The CFI annual picnic will be held at Fort Steilacoom Park on August 8, 2014 from 12:00 – 3:30 PM.

ADA Coordinator Report: (Gail Himes)

- Community Member Robert Batie's parking ticket was dismissed.
- Eric Huseby, City Parking Manager, will create a draft brochure regarding accessible parking.
- Gail Himes reviewed several street occupancy permits for street cafes and is working to maintain accessible routes for pedestrians.
- Two unisex/accessible restrooms are available at Oldtown Dock.
- The Lutheran Retirement Center is constructing an art and garden center. Gail and Pete Watson, City Plans Examiner, met onsite to help with accessibility issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parking and Transportation

- Jenny Adams reached out to a couple of major taxicab providers and is gauging their interest in accessible taxis.
- Chair Nyland will write a draft letter that will encourage Pierce Transit to use some of their funds to make transit more accessible.

Marketing and Communication

- The nomination process for the Disability Advocate Award is open.
- Several ADA web accessibility trainings have been conducted.

Employment

- The first new job descriptions with alternative descriptions about driver's license are available online. Future job descriptions will remove discriminatory language.

Built Design and Policy

- A motion was made, seconded and carried to dispatch the Emergency Management Plan Review Memo to the Fire Department.

Stakeholder Group Reports

- None

Good of the Order/Announcements

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 PM.

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