

Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities Committee Minutes

TACID – 6315 South 19th Street, Tacoma, WA 98407

July 9, 2015

4:00 PM

Call to Order	Chair Nyland called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm
Commissioners Present	Luke Byram, Susan Dye, Sheryl Ellis, JoAnne Fritsche, Todd Holloway, Krystal Monteros, Gerrit Nyland
Commissioners Absent	Don Izenman, Roxanne Miles, Gary Peterson
Staff Present	Joy St. Germain, Donlisa Scott
Guest Present	No guests were present
Adoption of Agenda	The agenda was accepted as presented
Acceptance of Minutes	<p>MOTION: Commissioner Dye motioned to approve the June 11, 2015, meeting minutes with an amendment to replace the word “handicapped” with the word “accessible”, and to change the Parking Abuse Initiative Motion to read “Commissioner Holloway moved that the COD support Parking Services efforts in clamping down on abusers of accessible parking permits”.</p> <p>SECONDED BY: Commissioner Fritsche</p> <p>ACTION: The motion carried</p>
Public Comment	There was no public comment
Presentations	<p>Tacoma Police training for, and interaction with people with disabilities – Captain Shawn Gustason Captain Gustason’s presentation will be rescheduled to October.</p> <p>Planning for September Tacoma Housing Authority – Sheryl Ellis Commissioner Ellis reported that Sheryl Stanstal, Planning and Policy Analyst for the Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) will give a presentation. Discussion followed and the COD members provided additional topics that Ms. Stanstal could include in her presentation.</p>



- 1) How the housing opportunity program differs from Section 8.
- 2) How people recover from program changes.
- 3) How the THA communicates changes.
- 4) Information related to funding, and how they prioritize their spending.

August Meeting – Chair Nyland

Chair Nyland is working on the agenda for the August meeting. If he is unable to secure a presenter, the meeting may be cancelled. Discussion ensued regarding the development of future meeting presentations. Suggested topics included employment, stigma busting, and social media. Commissioner Fritsche stated that employment is a serious problem for people with mental health issues, and that Esther Bennett would be available to discuss the Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DSHS/DVR), and how the City could work together on an employment project for people with mental health issues. Director St. Germain shared that the City has worked with Esther Bennett, and has also worked with vocational rehabilitation counselors for the short term to help people get back into the work force with a trainer, and job coach. HR can be a liaison between the department, and the hiring manager to facilitate the process.

Commissioner Fritsche will meet with the volunteer mental health consultants to discuss how stigma busting can be presented.

Discussion followed regarding communication, and social media. Chair Nyland shared that Gwen Schuller has offered space on TV Tacoma, and that he knows someone who could give a social media presentation. Commissioner Monteros stated that she would be willing to promote COD through social media. Director St. Germain will speak to Gwen Schuller regarding her availability to discuss the City's social media policy more specifically.

Reports

Human Resources Director Report – Joy St. Germain, HR Director

There was no report.

Business

25th Anniversary Planning Update – Luke Byram, Roxanne Miles and Gerrit Nyland

Commissioner Byram shared the details for the booths at the



Ethnic Fest and a list of items that were needed. Commissioner Fritsche will provide the monopoly money, and gloves, and will help write the talking points for the audio tape. Commissioner Ellis will provide the items for the prickly chair, and write the talking points. Chair Nyland will provide the blurred writing document, and write the talking points.

Chair Nyland provided a copy of the passport that will be distributed at the booth. Discussion ensued concerning the phrasing on the back of the passport.

MOTION: Commissioner Byram motioned to approve the passport with a revision to number five to read “Adopt new ways of thinking and talking about people with disabilities”, changing the word “Miss.” to “Ms.”, and adding “Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities”.

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Todd Holloway

ACTION: The motion carried

Commissioner Byram provided a copy of a proposed brochure.

MOTION: Commissioner Byram motioned to approve the brochure and to revise the phrasing under the heading Commissions and Sub-Committees to accurately reflect that they are not all sub-committees.

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Fritsche

ACTION: The motion carried

On July 21, 2015, at 4:15 pm, a reception will be held at the Tacoma Municipal Building to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, followed by Mayor Strickland reading the proclamation at the City Council meeting. An invitation will go out next week, and Sandy Davis will send a reminder to everyone.

Good of the Order / Announcements

Commissioner Monteros shared that the Taxi Sub-Committee has scheduled a meeting with Pierce Transit on July 29, at 10:00am. Jenny Adams sent her thanks to the COD for working on the wheelchair accessible taxis.

Commissioner Byram noted the Center for Independent Youth Transition workshop will be held July 13-17, 2015.

In Vice-Chair Miles absence, Chair Nyland provided her concerns. Vice-Chair Miles would like COD members to



monitor areas that have sidewalk cafes that encroach with accessible routes, and restrict the sidewalk space to less than six feet.

The Winthrop Hotel will have a new owner. Any upgrades should include elevator and accessibility improvements.

The City's ADA transition plan is incomplete. COD needs to drive the discussion with the City on how the document maintains its usefulness and gets updated.

Commissioner Holloway reported that the Center for Independence in collaboration with the Washington State Independent Living Council, and the Department of Health, have been working on emergency management plan for people with all abilities which culminated with a state wide conference in Yakima.

Commissioner Holloway also shared that he will be connecting with someone in the Neighborhood Councils in Yakima and will talk to them about the possibility of creating a Commission on Disabilities.

Chair Nyland will engage with Diane Powers, Director of the Office of Equity and Human Rights to see if it's possible for the COD to be involved with the interview process for the vacant Human Rights Manager position.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm

Next meeting, August 13th – 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

