

Minutes

Commission on Disability Concerns Meeting

March 4, 2024

Minutes of the COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS held on Monday, March 4, 2024, 6:30 p.m., held both In-Person & Virtually: Tempe Public Library 2nd Floor Conference Room, 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ 85282 & Microsoft Teams at the following link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) or by telephone: (480) 498-8745, United States, Phoenix (Toll), Conference ID: 762 995 762#

(MEMBERS) Present:

Kathy Jefferson (Chair)
Rachel Gomez (Vice Chair)
Irene Mochel
Krista Smiley
Genevieve Vega
Steven Tokos
David Kader
Jacob Bunch
Pat McNamara (late)

(MEMBERS) Absent:

City Staff Present:

Dr. Velicia McMillan Humes, Chief Diversity Officer
Elena Hale, Cultural Programs & Public Education Coordinator
Kara DeArrastia, City Clerk
Clarence Matherson Jr., Deputy City Attorney

Guests

None

Call to Order

Commissioner Jefferson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes: February 5, 2024

Commissioner Vega made a motion to approve the February 5, 2024, with updates, Commissioner Smiley seconded. Approved unanimously.

Elena will make the edit of updating “Human Relations Commission” to “Commission on Disability Concerns” in the meeting minutes.

Agenda Item 3 – Clerks Office Training – Kara DeArrastia, Clarence Matherson Jr.

City Clerk Kara DeArrastia presented the roles and responsibilities as a commissioner. Kara clarified the staff liaison duties and Open Meeting Laws, as well as provided the direct link to the liaison to the Clerks Office web page. Kara also informed the Commission on Disability Concerns on when and how discussions may take place and questions may be asked. Kara let the commission know the Clerks Office plans to roll out a more formal training program in the future. Commissioners Gomez and Tokos asked for a copy of, or a link to, Roberts Rules. Kara and Clarence will look into this and send something to Elena when they find it.

Agenda Item 4 – All Abilities Event Update

Commissioner Jefferson and Elena updated the commission on the various details of the All-Abilities Awards. Elena mentioned that the keynote speaker mentioned she was told there would be a theme – Elena asked if the commission if they would like the keynote speaker to tailor their speech to a theme. The commission agreed the speech should center around accessibility, mobility, and building community around this work. They stated they would also like her to speak about the origin of her work, and this work moving forward. Commissioner Gomez stated she would follow up with the floral company to confirm their sponsorship of the boutonnières. Elena stated they had 20 nominations this year and asked for a third person to weigh in on nominations. Commissioner Bunch volunteered. Winners will be determined by Commissioners Jefferson, Gomez, and Bunch for the 2024 event.

Agenda Item 5 – Proposed Future Agenda Items

- Commissioner Gomez followed up on the L.E.A.P. program coming back for a report at the May meeting. Elena confirmed they are scheduled.
- Commissioner Vega suggested having the Tempe Community Council be invited for a presentation on the agency review process.
- A presentation for 3.13 and 3.14 was requested and will take place at the May meeting.
- Commissioner Jefferson asked there be a debrief for the All-Abilities Awards in the May meeting.
- Commissioner Bunch suggested the commission meet with Engineering and Transportation on the scooters in the downtown area.

Agenda Item 6 – Discussion of Upcoming Meeting Date – April 1, 2024

No meeting taking place due to a city holiday, and the All-Abilities Awards on April 2nd.

Motion made by Commissioner Mochel to adjourn the meeting
Second by Commissioner Vega
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Prepared by: Elena Hale

Reviewed by: Velicia McMillan Humes