

Minutes

Commission on Disability Concerns Meeting

May 6, 2024

Minutes of the COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS held on Monday, May 6, 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

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Pat McNamara

City Staff Present:

Elena Hale, Staff Liaison
Dr. Velicia McMillan Humes, Chief Diversity Officer
Samantha Mason
Erin Kirkpatrick
Shawn Wagner

Guests

Meaghan Riordan

Call to Order

Commissioner Jefferson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Native Land Acknowledgement Statement

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

Meaghan Riordan attended the meeting asking the commission to consider an agenda item discussing the future of group homes. Meaghan informed the commission that there is an aging population who requires additional services. Commissioner Jefferson asked if Meaghan could recommend a speaker for the future discussion. Meaghan will reach out to the staff liaison, Elena, with recommendations.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Minutes: March 4, 2024

Commissioner Gomez made a motion to approve the March 4, 2024, Minutes with updates. Commissioner Smiley seconded. Approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – L.E.A.P Program Update & Discussion

Staff member Samantha Mason gave a synopsis of the last meeting she had attended, and that she was back with updates regarding CDC recommendations. Samantha spoke on the expansions of their programming including but not limited to: expansion of social programs to include an option to better support graduating seniors, adaptive kayaking, adaptive skateboarding, and Camp Adventure, which supports students ages 13-22.

Staff spoke about the proposed layout of LEAP for the 2024-2025 school year, including three classrooms to serve various participants aged 10-20 years.

Staff requested the Commission on Disability Concerns bring awareness to Adaptive Recreation programs via word of mouth, inviting staff to speak to the public, and volunteering.

Commissioner Jefferson asked about the age range for their social events. Samantha let the commission know that social events are open to those 13 and up.

Commissioner Mochel asked how they were getting the word out for older attendees. Samantha recommended the commission visit their website, which lists the programs by age requirements.

The commission thanked staff for their time and dedication.

Agenda Item 5 – The Mayors All Abilities Awards Feedback & Discussion

Commissioner Jefferson thanked everyone who helped at every level of the event and opened the floor to comments and feedback from commissioners.

Commissioner Smiley mentioned she thought the boutonnieres hurt the flow of registration and asked if they could be made lighter for next year.

Commissioner Mochel suggested a photo of the Tempe Diablos picture be included on the program next year.

Commissioner Bunch mentioned the voting for the award winners was hurried and asked that it be opened back up to the entire commission.

Commissioner Vega loved the venue and set up and recommended the sponsorship process open earlier for next year in hopes of obtaining more sponsorships.

Commissioner Gomez stated it was the best organized event that she has attended and loved the assigned seats for awardees and sponsors.

Commissioner Bunch suggested advertising in the Tempe Tribune and offered to assist with alternative formatting next year.

Agenda Item 6 – 3.13 Presentation: Dr. Humes

Staff member Dr. Humes presented the background information of, and efforts put towards performance measure 3.13: Disability Social Inclusion. Staff spoke about the importance of advancing social access, effective communication, and developing a measurable model. Dr. Humes detailed the 3 phases of the performance measure, the steps within each phase, and where the team is at the current moment. Dr. Humes asked the commission to review the information and send feedback to Elena directly. She asked the commission to be thought partners in this process, and to advocate for this work within the community.

Commissioner Vega asked about the data in phase 2. Dr. Humes let Commissioner Vega know that the team is still within phase 1, so there is not yet any data to share. Commissioner Vega asked about the systems already in place, and what was able to be measured now. Dr. Humes noted that Mayor &

Council allocated \$50,000 for the measuring of our internal infrastructure. From this report, recommendations will be provided to guide improvements and advance the ADA Transition Plan.

Commissioner Tokos asked if there was a date for compliance. Dr. Humes let him know the federal government has determined the compliance date to be the year 2055.

Agenda Item 7 – Announcements

Elena reminded the commission of the Boards & Commission event on Friday. Asked them all to RSVP directly through the link if they can attend.

Agenda Item 8 – Proposed Future Agenda Items

- Commissioner Tokos asked the sidewalk accessibility be brought forward per Commissioner Bunches recommendation.

Motion made by Commissioner Mochel to adjourn the meeting.

Second by Commissioner Gomez.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Prepared by: Elena Hale

Reviewed by: Velicia McMillan Humes