

Minutes

Commission on Disability Concerns Meeting

November 4, 2024

Minutes of the COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS held on Monday, November 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)
Jacob Bunch
Steven Tokos
Genevieve Vega
Irene Mochel

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Krista Smiley
David Kader
Patrick McNamara

City Staff Present:

Monique Perry, ADA Coordinator/ Staff Liaison

Guests

NONE

Call to Order

Commissioner Jefferson called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Native Land Acknowledgement Statement

We wish to acknowledge that Tempe is the homeland of the Native people who have inhabited this landscape since time immemorial. These ancestral lands of the O’odham (known as the Pima), Piipaash (known as the Maricopa), and their ancestors extend far beyond our city. This land continues to be spiritually connected to the O’odham of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Gila River Indian Community. We accept the responsibility of stewarding those places and solemnly pledge to consider this commitment in every action.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Minutes: October 7, 2024

Commissioner Tokos made a motion to approve the October 7th minutes, Commissioner Gomez and Bunch seconded. Approved unanimously. Commissioner Vega, who did not attend the meeting, abstained.

Agenda Item 4 – Citywide ADA Updates/ Questions/ Discussion

ADA Coordinator gave an update on the complaints/ concerns received from the public. Each issue was received and suggestions and comments were discussed.

Agenda Item 5 – CDC 2024 Annual Report

The commission reviewed a draft of the 2024 annual report. Commissioners were asked to review the report in its current state and was asked to review the report and provide feedback regarding any missing information. Updates will be addressed during the December 2nd meeting and the final report will be submitted to the City Clerk by December 12, 2024. Comments can also be emailed to the staff liaison.

Agenda Item 6 – All-Abilities Sub-Committee

Documentation was submitted to inform Mayor and Council of convening of this committee and that it would begin meeting in the near future to plan the logistics of the upcoming 2025 All-Abilities Awards; agendas and minutes will be submitted as required. Also addressed that Commissioner Gomez was a part of this sub-committee but will be leaving at the end of the year; the sub-committee members will be Commissioners Vega, Bunch, Tokos and Jefferson; a meeting will commence as soon as possible.

Agenda Item 7 – CDC 2025 Retreat

Information was presented to describe the proposed retreat and the pre-work that might be required. The retreat will be designed, to encourage commissioners to identify strategic goals for 2025. The facilitated process that will be utilized centers the voices of all retreat participants and promotes collaborative work, grounded in discussion. Commissioner expressed an interest in the retreat and would like staff to explore the possibility of offering the retreat in early May 2025. Commission advised that the 2001 Strategic Plan will be sent out to give the commissioners a chance to review the contents.

Agenda Item 8 – Updates/ Questions

Update provided to the commission regarding D-A-R/Paratransit issue that was on the future agenda item. Explained to the commission the difference between the City of Tempe and the City of Phoenix's transportation system. Also advised commission of request information to report problems to Valley Metro, which is csr@valleymetro.org or 602-253-5000; Commissioner Bunch requested this information due to people encountered in the community, including drivers, who need to express what they see customers from the disability community experience. Commissioner Bunch has a concern that Tempe residents are paying a considerable amount more for transportation costs, \$240 per month vs \$60 for a monthly pass. The staff liaison will follow-up with the transportation department and report back.

Agenda Item 9 – Announcements

- Commission Chair and Staff Liaison will attend a presentation on November 5, 2024, regarding the Tempe Community Council Agency Review Process and report back to the commission for the December meeting.
- The commission will vote for Chair and Co-Chair during the December 2, 2024, meeting.
- Commissioner Vega added that the agency review process was a community driven process and members of the commission can participate.
- Some commissioners requested the meeting materials are printed using 14-point font; change will be effective next meeting.

Agenda Item 10 – Upcoming Meeting Date & Proposed Future Agenda Items

- Upcoming Meeting Date – December 2, 2024
- Proposed Future Agenda Items Updates
 - Project Vision Zero Presentation
 - First Responders training Presentation
 - Tempe Community Council Agency Review Process- moved to be an agenda item at next meeting.
 - The Centers for Habilitation Presentation
 - Adult Changing Tables
- Commissioner Vega announced that a subcommittee was approved by Mayor and Council titled Increased Advocacy for Tempe Youth with Disabilities. The purpose of the subcommittee is to explore how the City of Tempe can assist Tempe youth with developmental disabilities, along with their families and care givers navigate and better understand the resources available in both the City of Tempe and in the State of Arizona for academic, career and life success. Commissioner Vega noted the sub-committee will be hold the first meeting on Friday, November 8, 2024. The sub-committee is looking forward to developing goals and Commissioner Vega will provide updates to this commission.

Motion made by Commissioner Vega to adjourn the meeting.

Second by Commissioner Gomez.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Prepared by: Monique Perry

Reviewed by: Velicia McMillan Humes