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**Minutes**  
**Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns**  
**May 7, 2018**

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Minutes of the MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS meeting held on Monday, May 7, 2018, 6:30 p.m., at Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd., Board Room, Tempe, Arizona, 85282.

**MEMBERS Present:**

Vice-Chair Katherine Schmidt  
Paul Bennewitz  
Ben Campbell  
Paul Kent  
Jeffrey Sherman  
Rene Williams  
Maranda M. Childress

**MEMBERS Absent:**

Chair Wendy Dietrich  
Jeff Oats

**Guests:**

John Federico, VMAAG  
Theresa James, Housing

**Office of Strategic Management and Diversity Staff Present:**

Michele Stokes, ADA Compliance Specialist

**Vice Chair Katherine Schmidt** called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.  
The Chair Wendy Dietrich is out of town this week.

### **Item 1. Call to the Public**

No comments.

### **Item 2. Review and Approval of Minutes – March 5, 2018 Minutes**

The April 9, 2018 CDC Minutes were **APPROVED**

Motion: **Comm. Jeff Sherman**

Second: **Comm. Ben Campbell**

**Motion carried unanimously**

### **Item 3. Presentation: Housing - Theresa James, Housing Services**

Theresa James, Human Services Supervisor presented information on housing programs in Tempe. The presentation included an overview of Tempe's housing services, goals, eligibility requirements and programs.

- **Emergency Repair funding** - Eligible recipients must own their home and receive very low income, at 50% of the Annual Median Income (AMI); 50% of the AMI is about \$45,000 of income for a family of four. These Emergency Repair funds can cover health and safety repairs, including Air Conditioning repairs. There is no waiting list; these are federal funds.
- **Section 8** – The application period is currently closed. Eligibility is 50% AMI. Preference points are given for living and working in Tempe, homeless in Tempe, elderly, disabled. Currently the federally subsidized program in Tempe has supported 1,052 vouchers. 930 of them are currently leased. Applicants must be 3-years drug-free and 5-years crime free. Recipients are given 60 days to find an apartment or house at fair

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market rent. The current wait list is from 2016 applicants. Application period will open later this year.

- **G-RAP** – General-fund Rental Assistance Program is being expanded. Funds are currently available for residents facing eviction or homelessness, residents with a utility turn-off notice. Eligibility includes being a Tempe resident.
- **TBRA** – HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance program is modeled after the Section 8 program. TBRA is a 24-month program that requires the tenant work towards goals of self-sufficiency. The TBRA is collaborative with the Homeless Outreach Prevention Effort (HOPE) and CARE7. Referral to TBRA is made through HOPE, CARE& and Human Services Department. TBRA serves individuals who have very low income (50%) and extremely low income (30%) of the Annual Median Income (AMI). These services include case management to address needs.
- **New programs** in the works include:
  - Mainstream vouchers (Section 8) will now consider applicants with criminal behavior in context
  - Section 8 housing vouchers for people with disabilities
  - Family unification vouchers which will be provided for CPS referrals to provide stable housing which is a requirement for parent reunification.
  - Technical assistance for housing persons with conviction history
  - Changing building codes to include Visitability standards. This is being done by Community Development as they adopt the 2018 family of building codes.
  - Tempe is buying properties to be able to provide affordable housing.
- **Valor**, has 15 project based apartments, on 8<sup>th</sup> and Rural that serve veterans and includes transitional supports for veterans who are homeless. Unlike Section 8 where the voucher follows the person, in this program the vouchers stay with the apartment.

- **VASH** is a program for 10 veterans that are homeless, and they can locate housing anywhere in Tempe.

Commissioners asked about housing for people with Serious Mental Illness. Since 2008 there have been services for residents with SMI> There are 36 SMI apartments available through various social service agencies. Over 85% of the residents from 2008 are still housed.

- **Bridge to Permanency** is an SMI program with 25 vouchers. Referrals come from Mercy Maricopa case managers. It is transitional housing.

Contact the Tempe Housing Department if you have specific inquiries.

#### **Item 4. Discussion: 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Disability Awards - Debrief**

Discussion was held to obtain feedback from Commissioners to refine next year's event. It was noted that there will be construction to the west of the Tempe Center for the Arts for a new development next year and temporary parking areas will be further away. Accommodations may include accessible shuttles, drop off area, etc.



#### **Feedback:**

#### **Use the same:**

- Room next year – Studio
- Stage layout and seating footprint (protect area in front of risers for access)
- Communication accommodations (CART/ASL/Large print/Braille)
- PowerPoint of pictures and awards presentation
- Entertainment (band from Higher Octave Healing)
- Lobby tables for city department disability services and sponsors
- Registration process (Event Bright Ticketing)
- Ushers

**Consider changes regarding:**

- Award category language to address:
  - Language to remove ambiguity
  - Separate categories for High School Students and Youth Awards
  - Determine if we want to keep a Legacy Award category
  - Determine if we want to keep an Architectural award as applications are difficult to obtain
  - Consider a “city” program inclusion / access award
- Food (costly, but needed to facilitate engagement after the event)
- Outreach to get more applications for students
- Outreach to get more sponsorships
- Adding a disability art display since the facility is a Center for the Arts
- Reserve seats for winners (optional, as they may wish to sit with family)

**Item 5. Discussion: ADA Transition Plan – Phase II Update**

Michele Stokes, ADA Compliance Specialist, provided information on the status of the Tempe ADA Transition Plan, Phase II Public Involvement Plan (PIP) process:

The purpose of the Public Involvement Program (PIP) is to create an open and transparent process to guide the ADA Transition Plan resulting in a shared community vision. The public involvement comments will shape the priority levels of elements and locations to be repaired. The remaining presentations to obtain involvement are on:

May 8: Transportation Commission

May 9: Library Department Staff Meeting

May 12: Stakeholder- Hearing Loss Association of America

June 4: The Centers for Habilitation

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**Item 6. Review and approval: July 2<sup>nd</sup> and September 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting Cancellations**

A request was made for two meetings to be canceled due to holidays. There are no scheduled speakers for either meeting. The request to cancel July 2 and September 10 meetings due to holidays was unanimously APPROVED.

**Item 7. Discussion: Review of 2018 CDC Strategic Planning Goals**

The calendar of activity and events was presented.

**Item 8. Discussion: Commission and Staff Announcements**

A request was made to include Mental Illness on the agenda next month. A training flyer was provided in folder inviting commissioners to an ADA training. A list of adaptive recreation services from Raising Special Children was provided; Comm. Paul Bennewitz noted that it doesn't include some services he is aware of, including MARC and the ARC of Tempe.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting is May 7, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Prepared by: Michele Stokes, ADA Compliance Specialist

Reviewed by:



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**Ginny Belousek, Office of Strategic Management & Diversity Manager**