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**Minutes**  
**Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns**  
**January 6, 2020**

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Minutes of the MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS meeting held on Monday, January 6, 2020, 6:30 p.m., at Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd., Board Room, Tempe, Arizona, 85282.

**MEMBERS Present:**

Katherine Schmidt, Ph.D., Chair  
Irene Mochel, Vice Chair  
Tracey Maye  
Paul Kent  
Viki Peer

**MEMBERS Absent:**

Jeffrey C. Oats  
Bethany Lien  
Maranda M. Childress  
Rene Williams

**Guests:**

John Federico, Tempe Transportation Commission, VMAAG

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

Jonae Harrison, Equity and Inclusion Manager  
Michele Stokes, ADA Compliance Specialist

**Chair Katherine Schmidt** called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**Item 1. Attendance at the CDC Sponsored: Audible Talkers Toastmasters' Celebration, Library TLC Room (Lower Level), 6:30 – 7:00**

No business was conducted.

**Item 2. Call to the Public.**

No comments.

**Item 3. Review and Approval of Minutes: 12/2/2019**

**Motion:** Request approval of the December 2, 2019 CDC Minutes.  
Approval of the minutes with correction.

**Motion:** Commissioner Paul Kent

**Second:** Vice Chair Irene Mochel

**Motion approved. 5 approved, 4 absent**

**Votes**

\_Y\_ Katherine Schmidt Ph.D.

\_Y\_ Irene Mochel

\_A\_ Rene Williams

\_Y\_ Paul Kent

\_A\_ Maranda Childress,

\_A\_ Bethany Lien

\_A\_ Jeffrey C. Oats

\_Y\_ Viki Peer

\_Y\_ Tracey Maye

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#### **Item 4. Welcome New Commissioner – Tracey Maye**

Commissioners and Strategic Management staff introduced themselves to the new Commissioner Tracey Maye.

#### **Item 5. Presentation: Foundation for Blind Children, Julie Oliver.**

A presentation on the Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) was provide by Employment Services Coordinator Julie Oliver. The presentation included information about services provided to both adults and children, by FBC. Employment related training is one of the services provided which covers travel skills, computer and phone skills and self-advocacy.

They work with the Arizona Department of Economic Security Vocational Rehabilitation Services Administration (VR) to provide a 12-month program that helps students work through barriers to college and employment. They also work with the Disability Resource Center at ASU to help students with vision loss.

Ms. Oliver also worked with Tempe in evaluating the ADA Wayfinding project with Orientation and Mobility Specialist Jay Whipple.

The biggest barriers to employment are misperception. "Vision Loss is a diagnosis, not a disability." Vice Chair Irene Mochel: It seems that fear and perception of liability make HR nervous about hiring people with disabilities. Sometimes when they change computer systems it can leave people behind who required various accommodations. There is a wealth of programs now that help with the effects of vision loss. There are apps that read food can labels. There are bump dots that help orient. There are assistants that can help someone with vision loss organize their own homes.

FBC also provides participants with help regarding:

Employer Contacts  
Training Employers  
Navigators

Cover Letters  
Engagement  
Accommodations

Elevator Speeches  
Job Seeker Meetings  
Mock Interviews.

## **Item 6. Discussion: Mayor's Disability Awards Update**

The Awards will be hosted at the Tempe Center for the Arts, on April 28, 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. Status:

### **Sponsors:**

- Tempe Diablos - \$4,500 directly to H.S. Student recipients.
- Cole and Associates - \$1000
- Vice-Chair Irene Mochel - \$500
- Chair Katherine Schmidt - \$ 100

**Theme:** ADA30 – Advancing Abilities and Inclusion

**Food:** Post-event - cookies, vegies and water/lemonade

**Speaker:** Not confirmed

**Entertainment** Not confirmed

Please reach out and ask for nominations or nominate individuals yourself.

[www.tempe.gov/disabilityawards](http://www.tempe.gov/disabilityawards)

## **Item 7. New Commissioner Orientation**

Staff briefly explained the Open Meeting Law expectations, general CDC expectations, and Robert's Rule of Order. A small handbook was provided.

## **Item 8. Discussion: Announcements**

No announcements.

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The next meeting is on February 3, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

**Motion:** to adjourn approved.

**Motion:** Vice Chair Irene Mochel

**Second:** Commissioner Paul Kent.

**Motion approved. 5 approved, 4 absent**

**Votes**

Katherine Schmidt Ph.D.

Irene Mochel

Rene Williams

Paul Kent

Maranda Childress,

Bethany Lien

Jeffrey C. Oats

Viki Peer

Tracey Maye

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p. m.**

Minutes Prepared by Michele Stokes, ADA Compliance Specialist

Reviewed by:



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Jonae Harrison, JD, Equity & Inclusion Manager  
Strategic Management and Diversity Office