

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2001

ITEM: ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Miya Rodolfo-Sioson, Marissa Shaw, Bob Allamand, Charlie Betcher, Norman Rabkin, Karen Rose, Robert E. Smith, Emily Wilcox

ABSENT: Delia Todd

STAFF: Don Brown, Eric Dibner

The meeting was called to order by the chair at approximately 6:30 p.m. The Chair asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of those who lost their lives as a result of the September 11, 2001 tragedies.

ITEM: INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair introduced both Bob Allamand (newly appointed commissioner) and Don Brown (newly appointed secretary) and as that they both say a few words about themselves. Commissioner Allamand mentioned his background in the area of employment development and placement for people with disabilities, both in California and Iowa. He was employed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights fourteen years before his retirement.

Don Brown mentioned that prior to his joining the City of Berkeley, he worked for the past eight years as Coordinator of Disability Programs at San Francisco State University. He has also worked as an AA/EEO Coordinator with the S.F. Public Utilities Commission and as a Human Resources Administrator with the City and County of San Francisco.

ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENT

Two members of the public spoke during the "Public Comment" period. Carol Denney briefly asked that all remember those who lost their lives and loved ones in the recent tragedies in New York City, Washington D.C., and Pittsburgh. She urged the Commission to support the recommendation advanced by the Outreach Subcommittee. Recommendation: "to change the Berkeley Free Folk Festival venue to a larger and more accessible space and provide funding for a sound system") Ms Denny indicated that the adoption and implementation of the recommendation would

result in a more diverse showcasing of talent and involvement of individuals with disabilities.

Ray Dobard spoke to the need of having all City meetings accessible to individuals with hearing impairments. He went on to suggest that televised meetings include open/closed captioning with no charge to members of the public.

He was pleased to find the transcript of the Commission's July meeting in September's meeting packet.

Mr. Dobard indicated that the proposal of the South Berkeley Dispossessed has a budget of \$30,000 to provide captioning at no cost to the public. He indicated that the C.O.D. Chair and its Secretary comprise a coordinating body. He urged the C.O.D. to forward a recommendation to the City Council.

ITEM: ANNOUNCEMENTS

By way of announcements, Commissioner Rabkin indicated that he had forwarded a list of problematic curb cuts to staff and have not noticed any substantive improvement. He mentioned the difficult he encountered while in route to the Solano Stroll.

Eric Dibner announced that CIL is sponsoring housing workshops. The next one is scheduled for 9/19/01. It was also announced that the Planning Commission was meeting concurrently to take up adding an accommodation ordinance to the Zoning Ordinance as well as an Ordinance revision eliminating the requirement for and Administrative Use Permit in order to have a disabled access ramp/lift within a front or side yard setback.

ITEM: AGENDA REVIEW

The Berkeley Folk Festival and the Ray Dobard items were moved up on the agenda, per the suggestion of the Chair. Commissioner Rose express some concern regarding the Karen Craig issue not being on the agenda and recommended it be placed on the Commission's October agenda.

ITEM: APPROVAL OF JULY'S MINUTES

The July minutes were approved with one revision. (substitute Karen "Rose" for Karen "Craig") regarding office location.

M/s/c: Betcher/Rabkin

ITEM: OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The Outreach subcommittee Report was presented by Commissioner Shaw. She indicated that the subcommittee is presently working on accessibility guidelines for events. Commissioner Shaw summarized a meeting she attended with representatives of

local venues. As a result of this meeting and related communications, the subcommittee is recommending for Commission approval: to change the Berkeley Free Folk Festival venue to a larger and more accessible space and provide funding for a sound system. After much discussion regarding alternate venues for the festival and the City supporting events held in inaccessible locations, the Commission voted to approve the following resolution: to change the Berkeley Free Folk Festival venue to a larger and more accessible space with an accessible stage and provide funding for a sound system.
M/s/c: Rose/Rabkin

ITEM: RAY DOBARD'S REQUEST

Following a brief discussion of the agenda item regarding ray Dobard, Commissioner Rose moved to end the discussion regarding the item. . m/s: Rose/Shaw
A substitute motion to permit Mr. Dobard to speak was m/s: Rodolfo- Sioson/Allamand

On the substitute motion:

YES: Rodolfo-Sioson, Betcher, Allamand

NO: Shaw, Rose, Rabkin, Smith

Absent: Wilcox, Todd

On the original motion:

YES: Rose, Shaw, Rabkin, Smith

NO: Rodolfo-Sioson, Betcher, Allamand

Absent: Wilcox, Todd

The Commission took its scheduled break at 7:55 p.m. and resumed at 8:10 p.m..

Commissioner Wilcox arrived at 8:08.

ITEM: ADA DRAFT TRANSITION PLAN REVISION

Eric Dibner (Disability Services Specialist) addressed issues pertaining to revisions of the Transition Plan draft. He indicated that he is currently in the process of incorporating some of the public hearing responses into the draft plan. This aspect of the process is expected to be completed within the next two weeks. The revised draft plan along with responses/comments will be included in the Commissioner's October meeting packets, Eric indicated.

ITEM: STATUS OF COMMISSION REPORTS

Eric Dibner (Disability Services Specialist) presented the status of Commission reports to City Council. The scented product item: Will go in front of the City Council on 9/13/01. The side walk obstacle item: Pending completion of the CM report.

Project Impact, charging stations: Questions regarding funding to be resolved.

BACS: Passed by Council

Traffic Signal accessibility: endorsed by the Transportation Commission, has not gone before Council.

Teleconferencing issue: DOJ complaint pending.

Service animal wording: Has not been worked on.

Medical benefits for eyeglasses: currently in process.

Angled parking: The work has been referred to Traffic Engineering, signs are currently being installed.

Following much discussion regarding the status of the Accessible Pedestrian Signal item, the following was moved: The Accessible Pedestrian Signal item be completed and ready to go to Council by the end of September. M/s/c: Rose/Wilcox

ITEM: TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

A full report from the Transportation subcommittee will come before the commission during its October meeting, Commissioner Shaw reported.

ITEM: REVISIONS TO TAXI ORDINANCE

Vote on motion (to support taxi ordinance revision Council item. Rose/Betcher

YES: Betcher, Rodolfo-Sioson, Rose, Smith

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Allamand, Rabkin, Shaw, Wilcox

ABSENT: Todd

ITEM: SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Appoint Commissioner Betcher to Housing Subcommittee. M/s/c:
Wilcox/Betcher

Remove Commissioner Shaw from the Disability
Awareness and Outreach Subcommittee. M/s/c: Shaw/Wilcox

It was decided by consensus to recommend Transportation Subcommittee
members serve as liaisons to Public Works Commission

ITEM: ADJOURNMENT

It was moved to adjourn the meeting and have the Chair set the next agenda. Msc:
Wilcox/Shaw The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Prepared by: Don Brown, Secretary