

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

meeting minutes
October 10, 2001

ITEM: ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commissioner Miya Rodolfo-Sioson
Commissioner Emily Wilcox
Commissioner Bob Allamand
Commissioner Charlie Betcher
Commissioner Norman Rabkin
Commissioner Karen Rose
Commissioner Marissa Shaw
Commissioner Robert E. Smith
Commissioner Delia Todd

STAFF:

Don Brown, Secretary
Eric Dibner

ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENT

Five individuals spoke during the Public Comment portion of the agenda.

Ray Dobard pointed out that the September DRAFT minutes failed to accurately capture his public comments made during the September meeting. Specifically, Mr. Dobard indicated that his comments regarding a proposal of the South Berkeley Dispossessed Developers was not included in the DRAFT minutes. He asked that the minutes be revised to incorporate his actual comments. He indicated that the C.O.D. Chair and its Secretary should comprise a coordinating body. He urged the C.O.D. to forward a recommendation to the City Council.

Nicholas Feldman spoke of the recent tragedies and suggested that the C.O.D. work closely with the City's Office of Emergency preparedness. He also expressed concerns regarding the EDI Board of Directors. Specifically, he indicated that a portion of EDI's board should be voted in by the community. He went on to state that Board members should possess the necessary leadership skills and expertise to effectively perform the duties of Board members. He urged the Commission to take a strong stand with respect to this issue.

Fred Lupke commented that the City Council voted to allocate funds for the warm water pool in July. This resulted from the C.O.D. having passed a recommendation in April.

He mentioned that the warm pool renovations are scheduled to begin in 03 and to be completed in 04.

Scott Luebking reported that the usability testing on the accessible voting machines was a complete success. He indicated that negotiations between Alameda County and the vendor are currently underway. It is the goal to include in the contract that the vendor will fix any identified problems. If the current progress continues, Alameda County will have the most accessible voting equipment in the country. Luebking concluded his comments by stating that he has been invited to address the Association of Registrar of Voters.

Daveed Mandel, California Council of the blind's Transportation and Safety Committee Chair reported getting complaints regarding east bay para transit. He understands that the rate of complaints has tripled. The increase in complaints is a result of the new scheduling system. He indicated that a number of people feel shut out of the Measure B process which will determine funding for next year. He was interested in knowing if the commission shares these concerns

Amber Hobson reported that Deaf women against violence Provides services to the Deaf community related to domestic violence and assault On a 24 hour basis. Hobson indicated that materials in accessible formats are not yet available for women who are Deaf Blind.

ITEM: ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Todd announced that a 24-hour TTY hotline for domestic violence is now available.

Commissioner Shaw announced that the Transportation subcommittee has moved its monthly meeting from the last Friday of the month to the first Friday of the month. The meeting time (2:30 – 4:30) has not been changed. The last meeting was cancelled and has been rescheduled for the first Friday in November.

Commissioner Rose commended Scott Luebking on his work on accessible voting equipment.

Commissioner Rose moved that the Karen Craig issue be moved from a public to a private setting.

Rose/no second, motion failed

ITEM: APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER'S MINUTES

The September minutes were approved with the following corrections:

Incorporate ray dobarads remarks: Eliminate the substitute motion regarding Item #8.
M/S/C: Betcher/Rabkin

**ITEM: KAREN CRAIG'S REMOVAL FROM THE COMMISSION AND
COMMENDATION FOR HER WORK**

It was moved that staff draft a letter of recognition to Karen Craig for her work.

M/S: Betcher/Rabkin

YES: Rodolfo-Sioson, Wilcox, Rose, Betcher, Rabkin, Smith, Todd

NO: None

Abstention: Allamand, Shaw

ITEM: COMMISSION'S ROLE REGARDING EDI

Commissioner Betcher indicated that he placed this item on the agenda to get clarity with respect to the Commission's role related to EDI. Specifically, he asked if the Commission's role include any level of oversight.

Councilperson Spring stated that a Commission's role is advisory. She went on to say, once a Commission forward its recommendation(s) to the Council, and the Council takes action, then it is up to Staff to monitor and evaluate contract performance levels. Councilpersons Spring indicated that in the case of EDI, EDI is accountable to City Staff and not the Commission. EDI does not have the staff to attend inordinate number of meetings, she indicated. It would not be at all fair or the best use of EDI's time to be required to attend more meetings than are required for other non-profit organizations receiving City funding, Councilperson Spring indicated.

Commissioner shaw reported having placed a call to Mr. Johnson (EDI Contract Monitor) regarding contractual provisions pertaining to confidentiality. The call was made some time ago and she has not yet received a return call.

Commissioner Wilcox asked if any of the subcommittees deal with EDI. The chair responded that a liaison relationship between EDI and some members of the Commission does exist.

Commissioner Shaw expressed an interest in seeing a copy of the contract between the city and EDI. Eric Dibner reminded the Commissioners that a copy of the contract was provided to the commissioners as part of their meeting packet some time ago.

Eric Dibner suggested that an appropriate time for the Commission to address concerns regarding EDI's performance would be during the time the contract is up for renewal.

Commissioner Rabkin commented that the one time the Commission conducted an annual review, it was unanimous and it was ignored.

Councilperson Spring commented that she has been on the Council for eight years and Staff is very experienced with monitoring contracts and evaluating performance. She went on to say, EDI is not perfect, but it has always been in the ballpark. EDI is in a very demanding position. Finding PCAs in Berkeley is a very challenging reality. The C.O.D. does not have the benefit of a context, as it does not have the opportunity to look at a variety of contracts and varying levels of performance. It would not be appropriate for a commission to meet with a non-profit organization regarding its performance; staff would address these issues. Regarding EdI's Board of Directors, there are not many people who want to step into an uncomfortable situation. We all have a role to play and hopefully a constructive one, Councilperson Spring concluded.

There was much discussion with respect to weaknesses related to EDI's Board of directors and how it functions.

Commissioner Shaw asked how many people are on the EdI Board and the number of current vacancies. She went on to say that EDI Board members should be familiar with Roberts Rules of Order. As a liaison, Commissioner Shaw stated, she has made recommendations and none of them have been adopted. Commissioner Shaw also expressed concerns regarding the "high use" policy. She indicated that if the actual high usage statistics are made public, Measure E might not pass when placed on the ballot. Scott Luebking indicated that there is an impression that the C.O.D. is overly involved in EDI's activities.

Commissioner Wilcox questioned that impression and indicated that EDI related issues have not been a regular part of the C.O.D. agendas.

Commissioner Betcher stated that C.O.D. members worked very hard to get Measure e passed and The C.O.D. wishes EDI well. Meeting after meeting goes by without mentioning EDI, commissioner Betcher concluded.

ITEM: BERKELEY FREE FOLK FESTIVAL

Don Brown reported the council item regarding relocating the Berkeley Free folk Festival has been drafted and is making its way through the process. He mentioned that the item would be in the 10/30 council packets as opposed to the 10/16 packets, as originally expected.

There was much discussion regarding the development of access standards for special events.

Councilperson Spring indicated that the Folk Festival should not be targeted. She went on to say, if special events are held to an excessive access standard, there is a chance that many events will not happen. She suggested that a policy must be developed. The city should not apply access standards to special events that it cannot meet itself.

The Outreach subcommittee will continue to work on the access standards.

Commissioner Todd thanked Councilperson Spring for taking time to attend the C.O.D. meeting.

ITEM: TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Recommendation of a COD delegate (Marissa Shaw) to Bay Area Community Services (BACS)

M/S/C: Wilcox/Betcher

Recommendation of a COD delegate (Marissa Shaw) and an alternate to the

Consumers Advisory Committee of the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA)

M/S/C: Betcher/Rabkin

It was moved that Commissioner rabkin be recommended to serve on the Para transit Advisory Planning Committee (PAPCO)--for Commissioners or community members

M/S/C: Wilcox/Betcher

ITEM: HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The Chair referred Commissioners to the minutes contained in their October packets.

ITEM: COMMISSIONER SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Commissioners allamand and shaw to serve on the outreach subcommittee

M/S/C: Wilcox/Betcher

The Commissioners discussed revitalizing the Health subcommittee, no action was taken.

ITEM: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Bus shelters, Captioning update

ITEM: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:25 p.m.

M/S/C: Rabkin/Betcher