

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Meeting minutes December 12, 2001)

The meeting was call to order by Vice Chair Wilcox at 6:35 p.m.

ITEM: ROLL CALL

Present:

Commissioner Miya Rodolfo-Sioson, Chair
Commissioner Emilie Wilcox, Vice Chair
Commissioner Charlie Betcher
Commissioner Norman Rabkin
Commissioner Karen Rose
Commissioner Marissa Shaw
Commissioner Robert Smith
Commissioner Delia Todd

Absent:

Commissioner Bob Allamand

Staff:

Don Brown, Disability Services Specialist/Secretary
Eric Dibner, Disability Services Specialist

ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie gorden, President of EDI's Board of Directors, commented that EDI has implemented a policy pertaining to high usage. The newly implemented policy increases EDI's ability to serve more clients. She mentioned that a subcommittee on utilization hears all appeals for additional services and if clients have a real need for more calls or hours the subcommittee works to see that each client gets his/her needs met.

MOTION: To extend the speaker's time. Betcher/Rabkin MSC: Absent:
Allamand

Gorden went on to say that EDI will be developing a low-income fund used to help clients who are unable to afford services. She welcomed the COD's input on developing criteria for the fund and its implementation. Gorden concluded by inviting the COD to EDI's December 20th Board meeting.

ITEM: ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Todd announced that a movie theatre on Shattuck (Landmark) will have captioned movies beginning the end of January.

Commissioner Shaw announced that the COD Transportation subcommittee would reschedule its regular meeting to the second Friday of each month.

Eric Dibner announced that the celebration for the Taxi ordinance revision was well attended by taxi drivers and companies.

Don Brown announced that the Disability Compliance Program has taken on two interns from U.C. Berkeley. Amy super and Michele Pyo.

Eric Dibner announced that the Disability Compliance Program would move to Public Works Administration, 3rd Floor, and 2180 Milvia.

ITEM: AGENDA REVIEW

ITEM: APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES (November 14, 2001)

Tabled

ITEM: STAFF REPORT

a. Accessible event policy development process

Don Brown presented a status report. He indicated that the drafting portion of the process was well underway. The policy and guidelines will have an educational context. The point of a policy of this kind is not to be overly punitive, rather, assist the organizers with understanding their responsibilities and provide them with the necessary information to plan an accessible event.

Commissioner Shaw inquired as to the role of the Outreach subcommittee in the process.

The Outreach subcommittee began working on this issue, but it didn't finalize any recommendations.

Brown indicated that he would keep the COD informed as to the progress of the project as warranted.

b. ADA Transition Plan Update

Eric Dibner reported that some progress has been made with respect to the ADA budget. He has been involved in discussions with the Capitol Projects and Parks areas. The budget of the Transition Plan needs additional work. As projects are completed the numbers in the budget change. The narrative portion of the Plan did undergo some changes as a result of the hearings. Dibner expects to have the plan complete in advance of his leaving. Commissioner Wilcox raised the issue of Commissioners be provided information regarding budget matters.

There was much discussion about the Transition Plan priorities and timetables. Dibner indicated that once the plan has been completed and the priorities identified, the question then becomes whether staff is available to do the work.

ITEM: TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

a. The issuance of special permits for ramped van taxis

Commissioner Wilcox presented to the COD three recommendations from the Transportation subcommittee. Following a lengthy discussion as to how the subcommittee arrived at its recommendations, the following motions were MSC:

The Commission on Disability forward a letter to members of the City Council to include the following: 1) Thanking the Council for their interest in transportation issues faced by the Senior and Disability communities, 2) Acknowledging staff for its hard work and 3) An expressed interest in looking forward to continued work with the Council and Staff to make the Taxi Scrip Program fully accessible

Rabkin/Smith Absent: Allamand/Todd

Request that the City's Director of Finance (Fran David) consider the issuance of up to 10 special permits for only wheelchair accessible taxicabs.

Smith/Rabkin Absent: Allamand/Todd

Communicate to the COA the following: The Commission on Disability along with the City Council, City Manager and staff are in support of the recent revisions of the City's taxi ordinance and maintaining the current funding level and the expansion of the Taxi Scrip Program. Hence, we respectfully ask the Commission on Aging to not take action on the Taxi Scrip Riders request.

Rose/Smith Absent: Allamand/Todd

b. Report on the San Pablo Avenue Public Improvement Workshop

Jim Donelson was asked to report on this item. The City's effort to beautify San Pablo will include the planting of trees. There was much discussion regarding the proposed trees blocking the signs of businesses. Donnellson was asked if access issues were addressed. He indicated that the plan provides for curb ramps on each corner and sidewalks will adhere to access codes. Edge detection (truncated domes) will be installed on curb ramps. Donnellson indicated that the project is scheduled to be completed in three years. Commissioner Rose suggested that the COD not support any design, which involves trees and/or lighting fixtures in the middle of sidewalks. Such designs are not included in the plans, Donnellson indicated.

Commissioner Shaw expressed the importance of having project managers address the full Commission on the access features of projects and hear the concerns of Commissioners.

ITEM: CONDUCT AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

Postpone item

Rose/Smith Absent: Allamand/Todd

ITEM: AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Approval of November 14, 2001, DRAFT-meeting minutes
San Pablo Avenue Public Improvement Project
Stem cell research

EDI
Behavior in public meetings
Disaster preparedness
Bayer

ITEM: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15.

Smith/Rabkin Absent: Allamand/Todd