

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA



Commission on Disability Concerns Thursday, September 1, 2011 Tempe History Museum 809 E. Southern Avenue

MINUTES

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman Mitchell.

(MEMBERS) Present: Chair: Ed Mitchell, Adam Dregely, Richard Halverson, Irene Mochel, Sarah Kader, Chelsea Chamberlain, Nora Nunez, Martha Ashburn, and Diane Moran

(MEMBERS) Excused Absence (Notification): Tom Ringhofer,

(MEMBERS) Unexcused Absence (No Notification): Jolene de Tiege, Aaron Edgell

Staff Present: Karl Stephens, ADA Coordinator

Public Appearances: NONE

1. **Consideration of Meeting Minutes:** 08/04/11 Draft Commission Minutes.

Motion by Martha Ashburn to approve the Meeting Minutes for August 4, 2011, seconded by Irene Mochel and approved unanimously.

2. **Presentation of the City of Tempe's Emergency Plan, and the Special Needs of Tempe Citizens with Disabilities:** Tom Abbott, City of Tempe Fire Department

Chief Abbott is the Special Operations Deputy Chief for the City of Tempe. He teaches at Mesa Community College and brought his students (14) with him to attend the meeting. He distributed the current Emergency Operations Plan, last version in October 2008. He believes it is the public sector's duty to: "Do more, with less."

Chief Abbott has been impressed with the use of technology for the hearing impaired with iPhone applications, but says there is still a lot to be done and is not ready to be completely relied upon yet. Issues have come up relating to people with visual impairments and service animals. He wants to talk to us about what the City can do to make things safer for people with functional needs.

We discussed the fact that there are not many severe legitimate disaster concerns here in Tempe. If the Roosevelt dam collapses we will have eight hours notice before flood waters hit the eastern edge of Tempe.

Chairman Mitchell suggests getting information to schools and nursing homes. He comments that there is not enough hospital space.

Commissioner Halverson comments that government agencies do not communicate adequately with each other.

Chief Abbott explains automatic vehicle locators: They are on top of all of the fire vehicles and send out a satellite signal, which can pinpoint where every fire vehicle is. The use of technology over the year has improved so much to help overcome communication hurdles.

Chairman Mitchell discusses the plan going forward on how to work together. Idea to create a committee on the Commission to address emergency preparedness is suggested. Commissioner Dregely, Commissioner Ashburn, Commissioner Kader, and Commissioner Chamberlain volunteer.

Chairman Mitchell notes that this will be the first time we will have two generations with Alzheimer's and memory impairment. He expresses our desire to help and be part of the solution. Chairmen Mitchell will meet with Chief Abbott to put out a few dates for a meeting with those interested.

Commissioner Ashburn gives reminder about open meeting laws.

3. Update and Status of Proposed Amendment to TCC 19-93: Martha Ashburn

The amendment is almost in final form, a few more edits are needed. Substantial changes have already been made. Working with city staff has been positive. We will hopefully see some movement going forward on other issues (signs for accessible spaces, etc).

Motion to approve changes and remove words "the parking spaces within," subject to clarification made by Irene Mochel, second by Nora Nunez.

4. Commissioners' Reports on Projects and Interest:

a) Downtown Parking Update: Mitchell

Karl and Ed had a meeting and received a positive response.

b) Section 8 Housing for Tempe Citizens with Disabilities: Rich Halverson

HUD sent out press release – Tempe is supposed to receive over a million dollars in grant money. Commissioner Halverson wants the Commission to find out how it's being allocated for housing and in what time frame the money will be coming to Tempe.

Commissioner Halverson is dealing with a bed bug problem and needs help.

c) Social Media and Commission on Disabilities Concern Website: Jolene de Tiege, Chelsea Chamberlain and Adam Dregely.

Template has been made and should take us through the end of the year.

d) Support for Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns Awards

Ceremony: Irene Mochel

There will be a special meeting before our next meeting on October 5th at 5:15pm open to all Commissioners.

e) College Avenue Construction: Rich Halverson

Commissioner Halverson, Chairman Mitchell, and Karl, went to the College Avenue area. Concerns include a narrower street and that some locations have double yellow lines which poses a potential problem for police dealing with cars passing Orbit buses. The City email response said The Orbit is used to being in neighborhoods with small streets and that this is not a big problem.

Commissioner Halverson also noted that when school in session, the Orbit is over-packed.

f) Discussion & Vote on acceptance of “Draft” Special Events Handbook Chapter 10 – Karl Stephens

Since last draft, changed 10% accessible toilets back to 5% - but left width of pathway at 48 inches instead of 36. Special Events is against spending extra money on accessible toilets. Idea suggested to remove disability only concept and suggest 5% accessible toilets and 5% family toilets (which are also accessible).

Commissioner Ashburn asks who checks to make sure things are compliant – Karl says no one really. People go to PF Chang’s Race and report back about that there are accessibility challenges for people with disabilities. It is the purpose of this commission, to monitor accessibility in the City of Tempe and to advocate for citizens and visitors with disabilities.

Karl is concerned they won’t approve more than 5%. Chairman Mitchell requested another month to try and negotiate a higher percentage. The “Draft” Special Events Handbook Chapter 10 will be voted on at the October meeting.

5. Future Presentations by Tempe Departments

Carla Kahn from METRO Light Rail will attend the October meeting to discuss the Tempe Street Car project to and accessibility.

6. Commissioners' Issues and Concerns for October:

September 22nd – Open house, 4-7pm, Arizona Commission on Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

7. Meeting Adjourned: 7:48 p.m.

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