

**CITY OF FRESNO
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

APPROVED - MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13, 2009 MEETING

DAC Commission Members Present: Robert Hand, Chair, Lillian Fillpot, Vice Chair, Ron Sheppard, Darby Greer, Russell Hoeltzer, Michelle Bronson

DAC Commission Members Absent: Mary Beth Randall

Staff Present: Carlos Duarte, *ex officio* DAC member, Elizabeth Kunz, DAC Secretary, Scott Tyler, Assistant Traffic Engineering Manager, Sylvia Shelton, Public Works Services Aide

Call to Order and Self Introductions were made.

Chair Hand welcomed Member Bronson as the newest member of the Commission, appointed by the Mayor to replace Danielle Thompson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Member Greer, seconded by Member Fillpot, duly carried, the minutes of March 9, 2009, approved as submitted.

Annette Carter requested that the meeting minutes include the answers to questions from the public.

MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Chair Hand reported (1) May 11, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., the Department of Rehabilitation will be having hearings on the State Rehabilitation Plan; (2) on September 25, 2009, the Center for Disability Innovation, the California State University Fresno Rehabilitation Counseling Program and C.I.L. Fresno will sponsor the Second Annual Western Region Disability Conference. This event will be held in conjunction with a luncheon sponsored by the Central Valley Mayors' Committee Annual Luncheon and the C.I.L. Fresno Annual Recognition Dinner; (3) C.I.L. Fresno was found in compliance with all standards by an audit by the Rehabilitation Services Administration; he has been appointed by the Governor to the State Rehabilitation Council and has been invited to apply to the State Independent Living Council.

Vice Chair Fillpot reported that Central Valley Mayor's Committee meets on the second Thursday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at Manchester, Rm. 209.

UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATION

Valerie Avalos, the Director of Community Development for Social Vocational Services (SVS) (1401 Fulton Street), addressed the Commission. Ms. Avalos introduced SVS as a not-for-profit organization that provides supported services to adults with developmental disabilities, and requested the Commission's support in SVS efforts to procure work for their consumers with City of Fresno Parks Department.

Annette Carter reported on the improved health of a community member who served the ADA Advisory Council and the FAX ADA Advisory Committee.

DISCUSSION ITEM: DEVELOPMENT AN AWARD PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WHO LIVE IN OR VISIT FRESNO.

ACTION ITEM: DEVELOPMENT OF BASIC PARAMETERS FOR AWARD.

Member Sheppard presented proposal to recognize people in the community who are doing work that benefits people with disabilities who may not otherwise be recognized. Chair Hand and Member Duarte both commended Member Sheppard on the concept of the award. Discussion ensued as to how many awards would be given each year. Chair Hand read the following proposal presented by Member Sheppard, as amended in discussion:

City of Fresno, Disability Advisory Commission (DAC) Awards Program

This is a proposal to establish an awards program for the individuals and organizations that have improved the quality of life of residents or visitors with disabilities in the City of Fresno.

1. Nominations will be accepted for individuals or organizations, including businesses and nonprofit entities. All nominations will be submitted no later than the last week of August of each calendar year.
2. The DAC will review the nominations and select the award recipient(s). No more than three awards will be given each year.
3. The award recipients will be presented with a plaque at a meeting of the Fresno City Council during the month of October, Disability Awareness Month.

A motion to approve the Awards Program was made by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Greer, and unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION: DRAFT PROCEDURE FOR PRIORITIZING THE INSTALLATION OF ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS (APS)

Scott Tyler, Assistant Traffic Engineering Manager, reviewed the Draft Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) Intersection Evaluation Procedure, as provided to the public and Commission, and recommended adoption. Mr. Tyler, and Elizabeth Kunz,

representing Public Works, responded to questions and comments of Chair Hand, and Members Greer and Sheppard.

ACTION ITEM: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT APS PROCEDURE

Chair Hand accepted a motion to approve the APS procedure, and opened the floor to public comment.

Annette Carter spoke in support of the APS Procedure and provided information on APS characteristics and usage.

A motion to accept the APS Procedure was made by Member Hoeltzer, seconded by Member Greer, and unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEM: DEVELOPMENT OF RULES FOR WORKING GROUPS

Chair Hand explained that the proposed bylaws for the ADA Advisory Council and the FAX ADA Advisory Committee do not meet the Brown Act. He stated that as it stands the groups can either be kept on hold until correct bylaws can be produced to allow them to meet as standing committees or they can be accepted as task force committees which still gives them an official standing without having to meet the Brown Act requirements. Chair Hand clarified that as standing committees or as task forces, the groups would have the same role of providing advice to the DAC. Discussion ensued. Member Duarte recommended going with the working groups as task forces.

Chair Hand provided an opportunity for comment from staff. Elizabeth Kunz, representing the Public Works Department, described the City's financial challenges, and anticipated these challenges would increase in the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years. She asked that the Commission be fiscally prudent when making decisions regarding the status working groups. Specifically, Ms. Kunz expressed concern about the legal costs associated with creating multiple levels of bodies subject to the Brown Act.

Ms. Kunz responded to questions and comments from Members Hoeltzer and Sheppard regarding costs associated with previous mailing lists for the working groups. Ms. Kunz responded that the concern regarding costs for mailing could be resolved as it was for other City bodies, by charging individuals who wanted to receive hard copies of materials. Discussion ensued as to the use of electronic media to distribute information.

Member Greer expressed concern about taking action on this topic in the absence of Member Randall, who is a representative from both of these working groups.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the public.

Carol Casey Zaun spoke to her experiences with the working groups and her concern that they continue, and contrasted the working groups with the current Commission.

Annette Carter spoke to her desire for the two sub-committees to continue subject to the Brown Act, with some changes to the proposed bylaws. Ms. Carter also spoke to the utility of the mailing lists for the subcommittees, and use of electronic mail.

Ms. Greer made a motion to table this action in a time-limited fashion until at least the next meeting. This motion was seconded by Member Bronson, and carried.

Carol Casey Zaun stated that she is also a member of both committees.

Chair Hand asked the Commissioners consider how many times a year the Commission should meet.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before the Commission, the hour of 6:50 pm having arrived and hearing no objection, Member Hoeltzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Member Fillpot seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.