

**COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
GLENDALE MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD ROOM
5959 WEST BROWN STREET, GLENDALE, ARIZONA**

Meeting Minutes

**March 16, 2010
6:30p.m.**

Members Present: Linda Yaeger Shirley Galvez
 Raymond Yaeggi Gary Charlson
 Adonis Deniz Sr Danielle Bohall, Vice Chair
 Mounib Shaaban, Chair

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Sylvia Charters, Human Resources, and Diana Figueroa,
 Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:35pm. A quorum was present.

Chairperson Shaaban indicated that Commissioner Robert Muth resigned due to medical issues. He introduced Mr. Adonis Deniz Sr. to the Commission. He also acknowledged previous Commissioner Margaret Kulp, who is attending as a guest.

2. Speaker

Ms. Ashleigh Turner-Justice, Art Show, and Ms. Amy Hotaling, Brain Injury Association, were both unavailable to speak this evening; however, Commission Galvez will work to reschedule both.

Ms. Ricki Ray, previous Commission Chairperson, was in attendance to provide an update to the Commission regarding past projects and assignments.

Ms. Ray began her update and said she has met with the webmaster and recommended a FAQ, or Frequently Asked Questions page be added to the Disabilities webpage. Ms. Ray distributed a list of the questions for the Commission to review.

She continued by explaining these are questions where the Commission had researched and obtained correct answers. She suggested that they begin with

these. Also, she added the resource where the answer was obtained should also be included on the FAQ page.

Ms. Ray stated that she also discussed with the webmaster the resource links which are on the Disabilities page. The webmaster suggested that these links be reviewed periodically in order to insure that the information is current. In addition, it was suggested the hotel information be updated as there have been several hotels which have opened since the information page was updated.

Ms. Ray continued with discussion regarding the city newsletter, The Connection. She said in addition to the website, information could be included in the city's The Connection, which is distributed to employees, citizens through their utility bill, and on the webpage.

Ms. Ray explained that with the State's proposed budget cuts, the State is proposing to permanently cut LTA fund. These are monies from the State Lottery which are dedicated to public transportation only. She added if this money is taken away, programs like Dial-A-Ride may also be discontinued. Glendale received over \$344,000 in funding. This funding may be eliminated.

The Commission thanked Ms. Ray for her time.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 19, 2010, Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Shaaban called for a Motion.

Commissioner Yaeggi made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Galvez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

Chairperson Shaaban called for Old Business.

Commission Mission Statement & Role

Commissioner Shaaban expressed his idea for the Mission Statement to read:

To make the City of Glendale the most handicapped accessible city in Arizona.

The Commission agreed with the Mission Statement.

Chairperson Shaaban asked the Commission to review the role of the commission, which reads "advises the city council on issues, regulations or policies affecting

the city's disabled population and their contributions and involvement with the community. He reminded the Commission that staff is available to assist with anything they may need whether it be researching or to provide information.

Accessglendale Website

Chairperson Shaaban called for comments.

Commissioner Yaeger volunteered to be the contact person for the website. She asked that she be provided with background information, which Chairperson Shaaban said she would receive.

Frequently Asked Questions

Commissioner Deniz suggested a link from the Disabilities page to the Visitors Center. Chairperson Shaaban said that information would be general in nature. The Commission would like to keep the links on the Disabilities page very specific and disabled-related.

The Commission discussed several options as to how to distribute information related to the Commission. It was suggested that information could be placed on the libraries; however, this information needs to be maintained and kept up to date. This would be providing the libraries allow and have space for the Commission to leave disabled related materials.

Commissioner Yaeggi said the city puts on classes for the Homeowners Associations within the City of Glendale. He suggested this is another opportunity to get information to the public regarding disabilities.

Commissioner Yaeger says the website needs to be kept vibrant so that people continue to return and view the information.

Chairperson Shaaban shared information regarding handicapped parking awareness. He shared his idea suggesting maybe twice a year the Commission work with the Police Department and the Marketing Department to get information to the public explaining who should be parking in handicapped designated areas and what the fines for illegal parking are. He said the City of Phoenix did something similar and it was very successful.

Quarterly Article – Save Our Space

Ms. Charters distributed an article by Mr. Ron Barnett for USA Today regarding the disabled persons parking identification placard submitted to her from Commissioner Yaeger.

5. **New Business**

Annual Report

Chairperson Shaaban read into the record what would be presented to the Government Services Committee. This information was submitted by previous Chairperson Ricky Ray.

The Commission on Persons with Disabilities (CPWD) underwent several changes during 2009 including changes in leadership and the discontinuation of sub-committees. In January, Jim Brown and Janice Pitts from Human Resources assisted the Commission in its first goal setting exercise to prioritize and structure activities for the year. Using the Council's goals to build one community as our outline, six goals were established that would continue to address the needs of persons with disabilities while supporting Council goals and vision.

Progress on the six 2009 goals are as follows:

1. To improve handicapped parking in the areas of availability and enforcement.

This goal has been addressed from the perspectives of enforcement and deterrents. The Commission researched this topic thoroughly and consulted with Catherine Clarich, Court Administrator, Commander Christine DeSanti, Police Department, and Sam McAllen, Code Compliance, who were all in agreement with our findings and recommendations.

From the standpoint of enforcement, the Police Department currently has an officer and three volunteers assigned to parking enforcement. The Commission certainly is in support of continued addition of volunteers as determined feasible by the Department.

Possible modifications to signage and an increase in fines were explored from the standpoint of serving as deterrents to illegal parking in handicapped spaces. Research provided by the City Court shows Glendale as ranking next to last in fines as compared to other Arizona cities at the current rate of \$124. Only Camp Verde had a lower fine at \$119. Scottsdale was highest at \$368 at the time of the report prepared in September. Since that time, other cities including Phoenix and Tempe have recently increased their fines.

With the input and support of all three departments noted, it is the recommendation of the Commission on Persons with Disabilities that the Court

and Council consider an increase in the fines for illegal parking in handicapped spaces. Although the ultimate goal would be to reduce the abuse of handicapped parking spaces, this action would also increase the city's portion of these fines in these economic times.

2. Develop parameters for the mini-grant program and determine funding.

The Commission obtained counsel from the City Attorney's office to address fundraising guidelines and contacted Paula Moloff for advice in regards to the existing min-grant program. After much discussion and research, the Commission voted unanimously to discontinue the mini-grant program at this time.

3. Develop a communication strategy with council and partners

To address this goal, CPWD members have improved attendance at their respective district meetings with varied levels of participation in each district. In addition, this Chair provided hands-on instruction to the Commissioners in the use of the city website to equip them to better serve the community through improved understanding of Council goals and current city projects and activities.

4. Establishing a presence throughout the community (outreach) publicity

In an effort to reach out to the community, the CPWD has invited speakers from varied agencies and disability groups. This has not only developed relationships with these resources, it also continues to expand the Commissioners knowledge and understanding of the needs and resources in our community.

The Commission has made an effort to publicly express support for all city projects relative to accommodations/accessibility in an effort to promote public understanding of the actions taken by the City of Glendale to be a leader in ADA compliance and development of an inclusive community. Members of the CPWD have attended all Centerline public meetings to date and provided input to staff and ASU students relative to disability needs.

Toward the end of 2009 the CPWD reviewed the public survey initiated in 2006 and voted to re-vitalize this survey in 2010 as the community has experienced many changes in recent years and accessibility issues have likely made similar changes. The CPWD will work with the web masters and marketing department to publicize this tool for gathering public input.

5. Continue to educate the public and businesses about accessibility

With the support of our Web Masters, Ginger Eiden and Leslie Reedy to post the work completed by the Commissioners, the City of Glendale website is now a resource used by residents throughout the state and other areas of the country.

To our knowledge, it is the only municipal website that has the universal handicap symbol embedded at the bottom of every page linked to disability information.

The Access Glendale webpage and email have experienced increased in use by the public and our own city staff to make inquiries and obtain resource information from a listing of community agencies to specific restaurant accessibility information.

As requested by the City Clerk, the CPWD members have completed inspections of polling places and completed a report on each site. For the first time in several years, all polling places inspections are up to date. Further inspections will be requested by the City Clerk only if new sites are identified.

6. Develop a FAQ web page

This goal is currently in progress as we draw from past meeting minutes and past correspondence to prepare this valuable resource for the public. We have met with Ginger Eiden to identify the appropriate format to meet the needs of website users. Topics will address such questions as: Are trash cans blocking public sidewalks a violation of the ADA? Can the city require a neighborhood to put their trash cans on the street to accommodate someone with a disability?, Does the ADA apply to HOA's?, Can latches on public pools be changed to provide accessibility to a person with a disability?, etc. Since these are topics we have already addressed with input from varied city departments; hopefully, this resource will reduce the duplicity of answering the same questions numerous times and provide our residents with immediate answers at their fingertips.

As previously noted, 2009 was a year of many changes for the CPWD; however, it has maintained focus and demonstrated progress toward all goals. The unexpected illness and passing of Vice Chair, Bob Koehler, required leadership changes that resulted in an extended term for the current Chair and the appointment of Dr. Mounib Shaaban as Vice Chair by Council. This consistency in leadership through 2009 has allowed us the opportunity to train new leadership and the Commission is well prepared for upcoming transitions in 2010.

Chairperson Shaaban asked for any questions.

Chairperson Shaaban said he (and past chair Ricki Ray) would be meeting with the Government Services Committee next month and will be keep everyone informed.

6. Other Business From the Floor

Chairperson Shaaban called for Other Business From the Floor.

Commissioner Yaeggi asked for an update regarding the incident which Commissioner Galvez experienced at the Jobing.com arena.

Ms. Charters said she has not received any new information.

Commissioner Yaeggi expressed his concern with what took place at the Jobing.com arena and stated there is a big event taking place at that facility at the end of March.

Chairperson Shaaban provided an update on the Commission vacancies and expressed how important it is for each Commissioner to attend all meetings.

Chairperson Shaaban stated that the 14th Annual Visual Rehabilitation and Technology Expo (VRATE) would take place at the Glendale Civic Center this year on October 29, 2010. He asked the Commission to consider manning a table in order to distribute information regarding the Commission and their activities.

Ms. Charters distributed the most current roster to the Commission.

7. **Next meeting – April 20, 2010**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Figueroa