



Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
(08, February, 2010)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on 08, February, 2010 at 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Norman Kieke called the Board Meeting to order at 12:05 PM

Board Members in Attendance: Norman Kieke, Chip Howe, Kathy Kasprisin, Jesus Lardizabal, George Luc, Ron Lucey, Tanya Winters

Staff in Attendance: Dolores Gonzalez

1. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin to approve the January 11, 2010 minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ron Lucey. The motion was approved unanimously by all.

2. **OLD BUSINESS-**

a. **Motion: Approve New AMCPD Bylaws**

- Ø A motion: was made by Commissioner Chip Howe to approve the new AMCPD amended bylaws; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin and approved unanimously all.

3. **NEW BUSINESS-**

b. **Presentation: Frank Powell Youth Pathways Program**

Ø Program Summary

- The program is a 501(c)(3) working to promote college and career choices to high school and middle school students.
- The program provides positive role modeling, self discovery, and opportunities to explore college and career choices through visit to local schools and employers.
- Bob Larson a former City of Austin councilmember is a champion for Youth Pathways.
- Students

The students are selected by school counselors based on need and potential and are from the greater Austin area

Selected students often have few successful role models, limited income, and may be at risk for dropping out of school.

The program does include students with disability through the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS).

Ø Classroom Activities

- Youth Pathways groups meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month and engage in a variety of activities designed to stimulate student growth and help them acquire valuable skills.

Ø Contact

Website:<http://www.fpfutureview.org>; Phone: 512-795-8388; Email:fpowell@bga.com

c. **Discussion and motion for February 08, 2010 Meeting**

- Ø Motion: approval of amended AMCPD Bylaws, motion passed
- Ø Capital Metro Speaker called in sick)
 - AMCPD Chair Norman Kieke briefly described issues on questions submitted to Capital Metro.
 - Commissioner Ron Lucey recommended that a letter from a citizen, Suzie Angel be read to be on record:
 - The letter discussed examples of persons losing their services
 - The difficulty of using transfer stations under certain circumstances was mentioned.
 - The letter also discussed the possibility of tracking the use of fixed route services to deny para-transit services.
 - A question was raised during the discussion about Capital Metro's conditional usage of eligibility criteria for Metro Access as a possible ADA violation.
 - Dina Abramson expressed that conditional usage of eligibility criteria was disparate for blind patrons. She stated that Advocacy Inc. might be pursuing a class action lawsuit against Capital Metro for a citizen dropped from eligibility.
 - Commissioner Winters expressed that the Austin City Council would want to keep citizens safe.
 - Commissioner Lucey said that even though many Blind passengers may be able to independently travel on fixed route busses, everyday activities such as getting the groceries or dropping children off at childcare would be extremely difficult to accomplish on fixed route alone.
 - Curt Voelkel whose clients use Capital Metro expressed concern for the problems arising from the changes including clients losing their jobs due to changing shifts at the call centers, as well as safety concerns.
 - Chair Norman Kieke suggested tabling the Capital Metro presentation to the March meeting.
- Ø Motion: AMCPD resolution to Capital Metro be sent to groups listed, the motion made by Commissioner Chip Howe, the motion was seconded by commissioner Tanya Winters and approved unanimously by all. (Commissioner Chip Howe wanted to be on record on inviting Capital Metro for the March Meeting.)

d. **Subcommittee Reports**

- Ø Access Subcommittee –Chair Tanya Winters
 - A PSA meeting was held to discuss ideas, and to research other PSA commercials.
 - An update on changes to the International Building Code will be available next meeting according to Commissioner Jesus Lardizabal.
 - The Subcommittee is accepting nominations for the 2010 Access Awards online at http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/ada/access_nomform.htm.
- Ø Awards Subcommittee –Chair Chip Howe
 - The Awards Subcommittee is interviewing the 2009 Employment Awards winners. The subcommittee will forward these winners' nominations to the Governor's Committee for the Governor's Employment Awards.
- Ø Employment Subcommittee –Chair Ron Lucey
 - A meeting on the Travis County Career Workbase Learning Program Advisory Committee will be held.
 - A meeting for the Community Career Expo will be held Feb 10; unsure of the time.
 - A Business of Work planning meeting will be scheduled later this month. This event will be held on the first week of May.

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- Ø Youth Initiatives Subcommittee- Commissioner George Luc
 - Subcommittee Chair George Luc met with Allison Orr from Austin Community College (ACC) and other artists including students from University of Texas, St Edwards, and DARS.
 - Diane Himmel, DARS Counselor, would like to include students with disabilities in the UT Campus immersion program; for information please contact George Luc.
 - Gerard Jimenez is in communication with staff from McBeth Center on behalf of AMCPD.

- 4. **Action Items:** One action item was to reschedule Inez Evans from Capital Metro for the March 08, 2010 meeting. The other action item was passing a resolution regarding Capital Metro changes and impact on the community.

- 5. **No PUBLIC HEARINGS** were held during the February 08, 2010 Meeting

- 6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** January 11 2010 Meeting
 - a. Sheila Holbrook-White Mentioned City of Austin Mobility Plan Forums this month; they are collecting information regarding strategic mobility for the future. Public is invited to participate. They will be provided a description of the plan and then will form groups to decide on criteria and priorities.
 - b. Durel Bernard - Goodwill Industries of Central Texas: Invited everyone to Goodwill's Hall of Honor- success stories from their programs. Gary Guller, disabled climber, who climbed Mt Everest, is keynote speaker. Feb 25, 2010 AT 5:30 at the Goodwill Community Center 1015 Norwood Blvd.
 - c. John Meinkowsky - ARCIL: He thanked AMCPD for the resolution; however, he added that staff had become very hostile especially when dealing with appeals. Ex: issuing temporary eligibility, making it mandatory to attend fixed route training as an eligibility requirement. There appears to be no logic for actions. ARCIL has made a request for Open Records for eligibility records.
 - d. Diane Aleman – Capital Metro Access Board: she would be interested in designating a Capital Metro board member to Access Board. The Capital Metro Access board would like medical evaluations and applications for Metro Access to be considered by a third party agency such as DARS, Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation (ATCMHMR), ARCIL, or Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center (CCRC). Diane said that there is a grievance procedure after the appeals process that people are unaware of if their application to Metro Access is denied. The Capital Metro Access Board recommends that those that have been denied Metro Access services should be restored. The Capital Metro Access board meets the first Wednesday of every month starting at 5:30pm. She asked that Capital Metro customers contact her at 541-2433 if they experience problems with certification.

- 7. **STAFF BRIEFINGS:** Dolores Gonzalez
 - a. Budget: There were no expenses for the month of January 2010, balance of \$6,005.00 remains.
 - b. The next ADA Round table will be held on February 23 at the Winters Building located at 51st and Lamar starting at 4:00pm, light refreshments will be provided. The round table will feature Rose Minette, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist for DARS who will discuss the latest in technological innovations to accommodate persons who are deaf and hard of hearing in the workplace, businesses, and services. Topics will include:
 - Ø Assistive Listening Devices
 - Ø Best Accommodation Practices
 - Ø Improved accessibility for persons who are deaf or hear of hearing.

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- c. Dolores has been invited to present at this year's ADA Symposium to be held in Denver June 21-23; this will not interfere with her attendance at the June monthly AMCPD meeting.
 - d. In January, Channel Austin invited AMCPD to film a promotional piece regarding committee mission and activities.
 - e. Calendar
 - Ø February 10 6:00pm-8:0pm Austin Mobility Forum 505 Barton Springs Rd Rom 325
 - Ø February 10 7:00pm-8:30pm Mary Lee Foundation Brain Injury Training 1327 Lamar Sq
 - Ø February 12 Inclusion Conference
 - Ø February 25 5:30pm-11:30pm Mental Health of America of Texas Gala Four Seasons
 - Ø February 25 5:30pm Goodwill Industries of Central Texas Hall of Honor–Community Center
 - Ø March 15 6:00pm-8:00pm AIR Interactive Awards Scholtz Garden
 - Ø April 24 ADAPT of Texas Fun Run – This will benefit ADAPT and AMCPD for participants who designate AMCPD.
8. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the February 08, 2010 meeting of AMCPD by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tanya Winters. The motion was approved unanimously by all.