

Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities MEETING MINUTES March 14, 2011



Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
(14, March, 2011)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on 14, March, 2011 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, Kathy Kasprisin, Chip Howe, Jesus Lardizabal, George Luc, Ron Lucey. Absent Tanya Winters

Staff in Attendance: Dolores Gonzalez

1. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Chip Howe to approve the February 14, 2011 minutes the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ron Lucey. The motion was approved unanimously by all.
2. **OLD BUSINESS no old business conducted at this meeting.**
3. **NEW BUSINESS**

Presentation: Betsy Spencer Director, Kelly Nichols, Acting Policy and Planning Manager, Fernando Hernandez, Housing Development Manager Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office (NHCD)- Update to programs affecting persons with disabilities

- Commitments to further Fair Housing Initiatives
 - The FY 10-11 Action plan will continue to invest in Tenants Rights Assistance with the Austin Tenant's Council (ATC). For FY 10-11 NHCD has allocated \$288,729 to the ATC initiative.
 - In FY 09-10, NHCD served 686 individuals, which was about 125% of the department's goal for the year.
 - In FY 09-10, the department's Architectural Barrier Removal Program (ABR) assisted over 100 individuals with disabilities to make modifications to their places of dwelling.
 - NHCD will begin a partnership with the City of Austin Equal Employment Fair Housing (EEFHO) office, which recently was relocated right next door to NHCD.
 - NHCD hosted training from the Corporation for Supportive Housing in February 2011; topics for the training were tenant selection and permanent supportive housing.

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- Deeply Affordable Rents/Permanent Supportive Housing
 - A recent Housing Market Study conducted in 2009 demonstrated a gap of almost 40,000 rental units for persons making less than 20,000.00 a year; 0-30% Monthly family Income (MFI).
 - A Council resolution passed in March 2010 directed NHCD and Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) to develop a strategy to create 350 units of permanent supportive housing (PSH) in four years. PSH is:
 - Permanently affordable housing at or below 30% of MFI
 - Additionally, the housing must also be linked with supportive services and be lease-based housing.
 - In FY 10-11, NHCD supported the creation of 64 PSH units geared towards the homeless and chronically homeless, in the same year, NHCD supported 22 PSH units for other vulnerable population with an income at or below 30% MFI.
- Accessibility / Visitability Standards
 - S.M.A.R.T Housing assists non-profit and for profit builders to create housing that is safe, located in mixed income neighborhoods, accessible, reasonably priced, transit oriented, and meets Austin Energy's Green Building Standards.
 - S.M.A.R.T Housing requires that ten percent of multi-family units be accessible to individuals, this requirement exceeds standards set forth in Section 504.
 - In FY 09-10, 673 S.M.A.R.T Housing units were constructed including 526 single family units and 147 multi-family units.
- Architectural Barrier Removal Program
 - ABR is a NHCD program that modifies or retrofits the living quarters of elderly or severely disabled homeowners and renters to make their housing more accessible.
 - Program goals for FY 10-11 would be to assist 110 homeowners with the 1.4 million dollars allocated in CDBG and 20 renters with the 250,000 allocated in the GO Bonds.
 - New Program guidelines, effective October 2010, include new program assistance maximum of up to 15,000 for retrofits and modifications; however applicants will only be eligible for the program once.
- Compliance Initiatives for properties NHCD asks "Does the complex/property..."
 - Maintain the facility for its intended purpose?
 - Provide all required reports in a timely manner?
 - Comply with City, State, and Federal Fair Housing Laws?
 - Monitor and enforce rent limits and low-income occupancy requirements?
 - In 2005, all city buildings and site plans must demonstrate compliance with the International Building Code 2003 (IBC), this resulted in most multi-family builders passing their final accessibility inspection on the first try.
 - NHCD continues to contract with the Buck Group for third party accessibility review and inspection monitoring services for multi-family sites funded by the Austin Housing Financing Corporation. (AHFC)
- Announcements, questions and Contact
 - Kelly Nichols announced that NHCD will conduct public forums and neighborhood meetings for the NHCD Action Plan. She will announce the meetings as they are scheduled.
 - Commissioner Ron Lucey recommended that builders should be educated on the advantages of Visitability standards whenever trainings or public hearings are held.
 - NHCD can be reached at www.cityofaustin.org/housing or via voice at: 512-974-3100

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Access/Youth Committee – Commissioner Jesus Lardizabal for Chair Tanya Winters**
 - Commissioner Jesus Lardizabal spoke about Imagine Austin and its plans for affordable housing.
 - Chair Norman Kieke encouraged nominations for the Austin Access Awards, urging citizens to nominate their favorite local businesses
 - Staff Liaison Dolores Gonzalez updated the committee on the ADA Sidewalk Taskforce.

 - **Awards/Employment Committee – Chair Ron Lucey**
 - Chair Norman Kieke reported on the planning for the Governor's Committee Employment Awards
 - The site for this year's ceremony will be The Austin Doubletree Hotel on October 25, 2011.
 - The committee is hot on the trail of potential key note speaker Kathleen Martinez from the US Department of Labor Office of Disability Policy.
 - The Community Career Expo at Goodwill does not yet have a date.
 - Commissioners Ron Lucey reported - The Business of Work Job Readiness Planning meeting will be at DARS Admin Building #250 on March 17 starting at 11:30.
4. **ACTION ITEMS:** No action items were recorded for the March 14, 2011 AMCPD Meeting.
5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** no public hearings were held during the March 14, 2011 AMCPD Meeting.
6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** No citizen communications were recorded during the March 14, 2011 AMCPD Meeting
7. **STAFF BRIEFINGS:** Dolores Gonzalez
- **Budget:** There was no expense for the month of February 2011, leaving the balance unchanged at \$6,105.00
 - Under the new HRD organization, the ADA office is now reporting to Assistant HR Director Carla Scales, she is in charge of community outreach programs, which includes the City of Austin ADA Program, the Equal Employment Fair Housing Office and the Veteran's Program. Dolores introduced Carla Scales to the committee.
 - Dolores met with Margo Frasier the new Police Monitor, and offered her disability awareness training for members of her staff; she is currently working to schedule this training. Ms. Frasier requested a topic covering how to assist citizens with mental illnesses.
 - The ADA Sidewalk Taskforce is comprised of city staff, community partners, and agencies working together to enhance accessibility in the right of way. The next scheduled meeting has been changed to March 25, 2011 starting at 10:00am at 505 Barton Springs Rd in the 13th floor Public Works conference room. Agenda items include a partnership with Capital Metro and a brief presentation from Austin Energy on their efforts to eliminate barriers.

CALENDAR

- March 25, 2011 ADA Access & Sidewalk Task Force 10:00 am at OTC
- March 31, 2011 The Arc of Texas Leadership Luncheon
- April 3-5, 2011 CTD Convention
- April 16, 2011 Barbara Jordan Media Awards – UT San Jacinto Multipurpose Ctr
- April 16, 2011 Easter Seals Gala – ATT Conference Center

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- April 30, 2011 ADAPT of Texas Fun Run 11-1pm at yellow Jacket Stadium 1156 Hargrave St for more information visit adaptfunrun.org
- Oct 19, 2011 Disability Mentoring Day (DMD)
- Oct 20, 2011 White Cane Day – Republic Square Park
- October 25, 2011 Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities Awards program hosted by the AMCPD.

8. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the March 14, 2011 meeting of AMCPD by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Jesus Lardizabal. The motion was approved unanimously by all.