



Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
(11, April, 2011)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on 11, April, 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, Tanya Winters

Staff in Attendance: Dolores Gonzalez

1. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Chip Howe to approve the March 13, 2011 minutes the motion was seconded by Commissioner George Luc. The motion was approved unanimously by all.
2. **OLD BUSINESS no old business conducted at this meeting.**
3. **NEW BUSINESS**

**Presentation: Scott Gross, Urban Rail Study Manager Transportation Department-
Discussion of proposed Urban Rail Program and related accessibility issues**

- Urban Rail Open House Mtgs. April 7, 2011 – April 9, 2011 at various locations around town.
 - Program Scoping for Urban Rail
 - Scoping will identify concerns of the affected public and other agencies.
 - The results will facilitate an efficient environmental impact statement (EIS) which will identify significant issues associated with alternatives examined by the project
 - An EIS identifies the potential effect of implementing a proposed action and identifies alternatives in the physical, human, and natural environment. Additionally, an EIS will describe the proposed project's purpose and need, and layout alternatives that were considered to minimize adverse impacts.
 - Urban Rail Purpose and Needs
 - The Urban Rail project will provide citizens with more mobility options, access and linkage to major activity centers, as well as, commuter and regional rail. These goals will support the City environmental, public health, and economic growth.
 - The areas identified for improvement include The Mueller Development, The University of Texas, The State Capitol, The East Riverside Corridor, The Austin Bergstrom International Airport and downtown.
 - The needs identified by the study include: finding alternatives to automobiles, providing better access and connectivity to airport and existing commuter rail system, attracting and sustaining development and improving air quality.

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- Feedback from community leaders
 - Community leaders would like to address growth, encourage investment, preserve housing and affordability, and protect neighborhoods, natural, cultural and historic resources in the affected areas.
 - After the project receives community feedback, the next steps will be to conduct field work and studies in the affected areas. Additional stakeholder meetings will be conducted to address economic development and aesthetic issues.
- Accessibility Considerations
 - Urban Rail will consider bridge plates to close any thresholds between the platform and train for patrons with disabilities. This allows for a flat surface area where people using mobility devices can cross between the platform and train.
 - The project would also look at ADA compliant bus stops and make considerations for people with disabilities when designing and planning them.
 - As part of Urban Rail planning, an accessible website would be created with the new transportation network, ensuring greater web accessibility for people with disabilities using the network.
- Contact
 - Urban Rail welcomes feedback and comments through the comment form found in the scoping booklet, which can be mailed to Urban Rail Project Austin Transportation Department, PO Box 1088 Austin TX 78767-1088
 - Urban Rail can be visited online at www.AustinUrbanRail.com
 - **All comments for public record must be received by April 29, 2011**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Access/Youth Committee –Chair Tanya Winters**
 - Chair Tanya Winters announced that the script for the second accessible parking PSA had been finalized and the committee was working with Channel 6 on identifying locations for the shoot.
 - Chair Norman Kieke encouraged nominations for the Austin Access Awards, urging citizens to nominate their favorite local businesses.
http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/ada/access_nomform.htm
 - Commissioner George Luc talked about efforts to reach out to local universities by creating an official open house for local youth with disabilities.
 - Commissioner George Luc announced that the deadline to register for the youth leadership forum had been extended.
- **Awards/Employment Committee – Chair Ron Lucey**
 - Chair Ron Lucey reported on the Business of Work Seminar
 - The Business of Work Seminar will take place on Friday May 6, 2011 at the Goodwill Community Center.
 - The event is set to coincide with the Community Career Expo.
 - The seminar is a co-partnered event between the AMCPD, DARS, Goodwill Industries, Workforce Solutions, Capital Metro, and Mary Lee Foundation.
 - It is designed to be a one-day preparation seminar for job seekers with disabilities. The event is limited to 100 people; Registrations are required.
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/ada/amcpd.htm>
 - A motion that the AMCPD sponsor the Business of Work Seminar Lunch for up to \$600.00 was made by Commissioner Ron Lucey the motion was seconded by Commissioner Jesus Lardizabal and approved unanimously by all.

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- Committee Chair Norman Kieke reported on planning for the Awards Program being held with the Texas Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities Employment Awards.
 - The date for the ceremony will be Tuesday October 25, 2011 at the Doubletree Austin Hotel.
 - The committee is currently working on addressing details of the program including: reducing the number of awards handed out, streamlining the nomination process, inviting Senator Kirk Watson as the keynote, and looking for entertainment.
 - The committee plans to present some awards at City Council Chambers.
- Commissioner Chip Howe noted that GCPD nomination form was formulated to be basic and easy for the nominator; committee members follow up with nominators and nominees to gather more information later.

4. **ACTION ITEMS:** One action items recorded for the April 11, 2011 AMCPD Meeting:

- A motion that the AMCPD fund up to \$600.00 dollars for the Business of Work Seminar Lunch was made by Commissioner Ron Lucey the motion was seconded by Commissioner Jesus Lardizabal and approved unanimously by all.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** no citizen hearings were held during the April 11, 2011 AMCPD Meeting.

6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** One citizen communications were recorded during the April 11, 2011 AMCPD Meeting

➤ **Nancy Crowther**

- Personal Care Attendant (PCA)
 - We are creating a statewide voice for PCAs, they are the least paid and recognized occupation in the medical career field.
 - There are groups across Texas representing some 250,000 PCAs that reach from El Paso to Beaumont.
 - Theses groups are looking at salary increases from \$7.25 an hour minimum wage. They will be requesting .50 cent increases in 2012 and 2013.
 - PCAs are a vital service for people with disabilities; this allows individuals to stay in a community living environment rather than in an institutional setting.
 - The Austin PCA group will be holding monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 6-7:30pm at the ADAPT of Texas Offices located at 1640 E 2nd St Ste 100
 - On Saturday May 21, ADAPT is hosting a PCA recognition BBQ and Awards Ceremony also at their Offices, for more information contact Nancy at 512-442-0252; 1640 E 2nd St. Ste 100
- ADAPT of Texas Fun Run
 - Saturday April 30, 2011 11:00 – 1:00 pm at the Yellow Jacket Stadium -1156 Hargrave
 - The event needs pledges for laps to help raise funds for ADAPT.
 - The funds that you raise will be split between your organization and ADAPT.
 - For more information contact Bob or Ron at 442-0252 or visit the website at www.adaptfunrun.org

7. **STAFF BRIEFINGS:** Dolores Gonzalez

- **Budget:** There was no expense for the month of March 2011, leaving the balance unchanged at \$6,105.00

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- The ADA Sidewalk Taskforce is comprised of city staff, community partners, and agencies working together to enhance accessibility in the City's Right of Way. They met on March 25, 2011 Agenda items included a presentation from Austin Energy on their efforts to eliminate barriers such as poles in sidewalks and also a staff update. The staff update was on work being done in the public right of way; examples include: work around Burnet and Koenig, Manor Rd near Airport, and repairs at Rio Grande at 14th. The next ADA Taskforce Meeting will take place on May 25th at the ADAPT of Texas offices 1640-A E 2nd St Ste 100
- This year the ADAPT Fun Run is scheduled for Saturday April 30, 2011 at the Yellow Jacket Stadium 1156 Hargrave St. Your participation helps AMCPD and ADAPT.

CALENDAR

- April 28, 2011 Arc of the Capital Area Fashion with Heart at Nuvola 105 E 5th St, doors open at 6pm show begins at 7pm.
- April 30, 2011 ADAPT of Texas Fun Run 11-1pm at yellow Jacket Stadium 1156 Hargrave St for more information visit adaptfunrun.org
- May 21, 2011 PCA Recognition BBQ and Awards ADAPT offices 1604-A E 2ⁿ St Ste 100
- June 13, 2011 Peggy Mastronianni, Legal Counsel from EEOC in DC
- Oct 19, 2011 Disability Mentoring Day (DMD)
- Oct 20, 2011 White Cane Day
- Oct 25, 2011 Texas Governors Committee and Mayor's Committee Employment Awards at the Doubletree Austin Hotel

8. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the April 11, 2011 meeting of AMCPD by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ron Lucey. The motion was approved unanimously by all.