

Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities MEETING MINUTES May 09, 2011



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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
(09, May, 2011)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on 09, May, 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, George Luc, Ron Lucey, Tanya Winters

Staff in Attendance: Lee Nguyen

1. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Tanya Winters to approve the April 11, 2011 minutes the motion was seconded by Commissioner Chip Howe. The motion was approved unanimously by all.
2. **OLD BUSINESS no old business conducted at this meeting.**
3. **NEW BUSINESS**

Presentation: Chris Moore, Manager, Neighborhood Connectivity Division/ Public Works Department- Discussion of Child Safety Program and related accessibility components

- Safe Route to School Project updates
 - At Lamar Middle School the program is installing an ADA ramp.
 - At Gullet elementary school the program is installing ADA ramps, and accessible spaces.
 - The Neighborhood Connectivity Division is also promoting BOW WOW a bike and walk program as well as a program to decrease idling vehicles around schools.
 - Commissioner Ron Lucey asked where the sidewalks would be placed at Lamar Middle School. Chris responded that it was the west side.
 - Mitchell Rappaport asked how projects were funded and how many Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot) grants did Public Works apply for? The answer was most funding is through COA and that the department had applied for grant funding on ten projects.
 - Chris Moore talked briefly about needing cross walk guards due to a 70% turn over rate. The committee encouraged parents, grandparents, and people in the community to apply for these positions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Access/Youth Committee –Chair Tanya Winters**
 - Chair Tanya Winters announced that the second accessible parking PSA would be scheduled soon with Channel 6.

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- Ms. Winters encouraged nominations for the Austin Access Awards, urging citizens to nominate their favorite local businesses, the nomination forms can be found at http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/ada/access_nomform.htm. The awards will be held in late July.
- The Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) planning group got underway with an initial meeting last week. A University of Texas representative will attend the upcoming meetings for DMD.
- Commissioner George Luc talked about efforts to reach out to local universities by creating an official open house for local youth with disabilities.

➤ **Awards/Employment Committee – Chair Ron Lucey**

- Chair Ron Lucey reported on the Business of Work Seminar
 - The Business of Work Seminar that took place on, Friday May 6, 2011 at the Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center and went very well.
 - 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 to gain and hold meaningful employment. The seminar presented several sessions including transportation, and dressing for success.
 - Chair Ron Lucey thanked AMCPD Chair Norman Kieke for participating as a speaker at one of the sessions.

Commissioner Lucey also commented that this year's Community Career Expo was scheduled for June 23 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Goodwill Community Center.

- Commissioner Chip Howe noted that the Texas Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities nominations for several AMCPD Employment Award winners had been submitted.

4. **ACTION ITEMS:** No action items recorded for the May 09, 2011 AMCPD Meeting:

5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** no citizen hearings were held during the May 09, 2011 AMCPD Meeting.

6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** Citizen communications were recorded during the May 09, 2011 AMCPD Meeting

➤ **Dina Abramson**

- Ms. Abramson mentioned that La Fleur Transportation Services is being contracted to assist Capital Metro in delivering para transit services.
 - Ms. Abramson stated that she heard La Fleur does not conduct background checks on drivers. She requested that Commissioner Winters and Boone Blocker as the new Chair of the Metro Access Sub-Committee look into this matter.
 - She further stated that La Fleur uses converted taxi cabs in their fleet, which may be difficult for people with disabilities to board.
 - Community Partner Representative, Boone Blocker invited Ms. Abramson to attend the Capital Metro Access Committee to further discuss these issues
 - Ms Abramson also talked about the success of the Independent Living Conference, saying 300 attended the conference that is designed to help people with disabilities live independent lives. The State of Texas is ranked 49th in community services among all other states and further cuts being proposed by the state legislature would dismantle even more of the programs built in the past 25 years.

➤ **Nancy Crowther**

- Personal Care Attendant (PCA)
 - We are creating a statewide voice for PCAs as they are the least paid and recognized occupation in the medical career field.
 - These groups are requesting salary increases from \$7.25/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
 - House Bill 222 designed to combine programs and decrease services; as well as 28 additional bills to cut funding are being debated by the Texas House. Tomorrow public testimony will be taken by the Texas House from 8:30am-9:30am. Everyone is encouraged to attend and provide testimony.

7. **STAFF BRIEFINGS:** Lee Nguyen

- **Budget:** There was no expense for the month of April 2011, leaving the balance unchanged at \$6,105.00
- The ADA Office has completed the 2010 Implementation Report the report can be viewed online at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/ada/>, copies would also be available to the commissioners upon request.
- This ADA office continues to conduct departmental onsite meetings and have conducted 6 thus far; onsite scheduling will go through the month of July.

CALENDAR

- 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
- June 23, 2011 Community Career Expo at Goodwill Community Center 1015 Norwood
- 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. **Future Agenda Items:**

The committee suggested further discussion on HB 216 which creates new regulations and requirements for half way house operators, which may run them out of business with high operating costs. Such houses are a form of low income housing to people with disabilities.

9. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the May 09, 2011 meeting of AMCPD by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ron Lucey. The motion was approved unanimously by all.