



Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities  
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING  
(12, December, 2011)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on 12, December, 2011 at 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair Ron Lucey for Chair Jesus Lardizabal called the Board Meeting to order at 12:05 PM

Board Members in Attendance: Jesus Lardizabal, Chip Howe, Kathy Kasprisin, Norman Kieke, 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 November 14, 2011 minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tanya Winters. The motion was approved unanimously by all.
2. **OLD BUSINESS** conducted at the December 12, 2011 AMCPD Meeting:  
Parking Mobility had a good meeting with Travis County; though there are still a few basic issues to work out; overall progress has been good. The City of Austin has until February to provide a report on assessing Parking Mobility.
3. **NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion: Approval of 2012 Meeting Schedule**

- A motion was made to approve the 2012 meeting schedule by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin; the motion was seconded by Chair Jesus Lardizabal, with changes as follows: September 17 and November 13 dates. The motion was approved unanimously by all.

**Presentation: Linda Espy, Program Manager- Austin Travis County Work Base Learning Program**

- Summary of services provided to youth with disabilities
  - 350 youth were recruited last year, 230 were trained and 185 were offered jobs.
  - Of these 156 successfully completed the program
- Leadership Program
  - The new leadership program enables 60 selected youth to learn about transportation, budgeting, housing, and "character" as they transition from school into work life or college.
- Program changes
  - It is recommended to change the length of the program from five weeks to eight weeks. There is also an aim to reach an overall program 450 youths, which is a decreased number from its goal of 750 in previous years.
  - The program will be focused as a career to work program, geared towards getting youth ready for college including securing financial aid.

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- Teaming up with other community organizations; Seton has expressed intent to partner with the program.
- The program will continue it's partnership with Goodwill Industries of Central Texas for job coaches.
- Restructuring the advisory board
  - What are the needs of the board? Committee members may have to put in more time based on program needs.
  - The handouts break down numbers of persons served by zip code, schools, race and ethnicity and gender; Manny will send an email to the committee with this information.
- Questions
  - Vice Chair Ron Lucey asked how the program determined that 450 would be the number of youth they would serve.
  - Linda Espy said the program would be keeping older youth in the new Leadership Program.
  - Vice Chair Lucey also asked on the status of the Disability Coordinator position for the program. Linda Espy responded that the position had been submitted to the Human Resources Department, and will hopefully be posted by January 2012.
  - Commissioner George Luc asked if youth were being trained for 2-5 years due to advancement in technology. In reply, Manny said that because the program does not know whether a youth will be returning, it is important that the program gives them some skills, when they are with the program.
- Discussion
  - Vice Chair Lucey is interested in Linda discussing with the City to keep the budget the same for the new program even though numbers are reduced. However, the hope is the quality of the program will be better as a result.
  - Vice Chair Lucey also expressed interest in the committee providing a brochure to youth about Disability Mentoring Day and the Committee's scholarships.
  - Linda Espy said that this is not just a summer program and work to recruit, train, and place youth, is done by a limited staff throughout the year.
  - Commissioner Tanya Winters expressed interest in tracking youth to see where they were 5-10 years removed from the program. Also, she mentioned that the program should consider a mentorship with successful people with disabilities.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Access/Youth Committee –Chair Tanya Winters**

- Barton Springs Pool
  - Chair Lardizabal will become a non voting member of the Barton Springs Pool Board, mostly to provide information on accessibility.
  - Chair Lardizabal reports that renovations to the pool area would include accessibility at both the North and South entrances.
  - Chair Lardizabal mentioned that there were many interested parties involved in the pool renovation, though most parties are in favor of access; politics also is playing a part in deciding the pool's final renovation plans.
- ADA Access Taskforce
  - Task Force member, Robin Petty reported that the task force had a presentation from a provider of audible traffic signals, which received input from various community members.
  - Vice Chair Lucey expressed the importance on placing those signals at T and Y shaped intersections.
  - Chair Lardizabal said that Scott Meyer from DARS was present at the demonstration and pointed out various tips for the provider.

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- Chair Lardizabal will continue work with COA on the audible traffic signals.
- Youth Update
  - Commissioner George Luc applauded Lauren Kinast from UT for her work to make the UT open house a big success.
  - Bryson Smith, a community member asked if it was possible to get a prior notice to these events because he wanted to get the word out.
- Disability Taskforce
  - Vice Chair Lucey announced he was serving on the Emergency Preparedness Disability Taskforce and that the taskforce first meeting would discuss Emergency Management functional needs and briefing.

**Awards/Employment Committee–Ron Lucey**

- Vice Chair Lucey said there was nothing new to report regarding Awards, but that he was looking to February for the initial meeting for planning the Business of Work Seminar; getting ready for the Goodwill Community Career Expo.
4. **ACTION ITEMS:** There was one action item recorded for the December 12, 2011 Meeting:
- A motion was made to approve the 2012 meeting schedule by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin; the motion was seconded by Chair Jesus Lardizabal, with the following changes: September 17 and November 13 dates. The motion was approved unanimously by all.
5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** no public hearings were held during the December 12, 2011 AMCPD meeting.

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** citizen communication was received during the December 12, 2011 AMCPD meeting:

**Stuart Hersh** is asking the Mayor's Committee to resubmit its previous recommendation on S.M.A.R.T. Housing accessibility standards. S.M.A.R.T. Housing requires 10% of the multi-family apartments to be accessible, but building codes only require 2% to be accessible. In the last five years, the Committee recommended dropping the S.M.A.R.T. Housing standard to 5% to encourage more accessible and affordable rental. Mr. Hersh said some advocates opposed the change, and the City council did not approve it. He said the result is fewer accessible and affordable apartments over the last five years. Commissioner Winters would like to bring this up at the committee work session in January to plan strategy. Mr. Hersh said this issue starts at the subdivision stage. Mr. Hersh also recommended involving all stakeholders in a discussion of revising the Visitability Ordinance and including visitability in the 2012 Residential Code. Vice Chair Lucey asked if Mr. Hersh would be interested in working with the committee to bring developers to the table; Mr. Hersh is willing to share connections and work with the committee on this.

- **Boone J Blocker** Metro Access Board member announced new changes to eligibility process for Metro Access would go on a new policy book. Capital Metro is currently working on a pocket guide, as well. One of the key changes is that Metro Access eligibility recertification would be every four years instead of two. On a separate note, Mr. Blocker asked if he could get a list of schools that have a safety program, a criteria to get funding for sidewalks.
  - **Michael Zitz-Evanich** – discussed having an issue with Capital Metro and the new eligibility criteria. He stated that they were not grandfathering participants of Metro Access. He also thanked the Committee for all the work they do.
7. **STAFF BRIEFINGS:** Dolores Gonzalez
- **Budget:** report: No Expense this month – leaving a new fiscal year balance of \$ 6,105.00

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- Austin Corps- the City is participating in this internship program and the ADA Office is receiving an intern. Initially, the intern will help in planning the work session in January, but please let Dolores know of any AMCPD projects the intern can work on.
  - Channel 6 announced that AMCPD meetings would be available for streaming and the capability to archive videos on demand would be available starting this month. They are working a vendor for captioning and the link to the videos can be found at:  
<http://www.austintexas.gov/channel6>
  - ADA Onsite this month: Parks and Recreation Department
8. **Future Agenda Items:** none discussed at December 12, 2011 Meeting
9. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the December 12, 2011 meeting by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tanya Winters. The motion was approved unanimously by all.