

Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities MEETING MINUTES June 11, 2012



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REGULAR MEETING
(11, June, 2012)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on 11, June, 2012 at 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Jesus Lardizabal called the Board Meeting to order at 12:05 PM

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

Staff in Attendance: Dolores Gonzalez

1. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Norman Kieke to approve the May 14, 2012 minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ron Lucey. The motion was approved unanimously by all.

2. **OLD BUSINESS** no old business was conducted at the June 11, 2012 AMCPD meeting.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Presentation: David Atherton, scientist- a discussion of demystifying the use of ionized water, including the health benefits from its use.

- Personal Experience
 - After a car accident Mr. Atherton began using ionized water and saw many positive changes as he recovered from his injuries.
- Ph and body health
 - Tissues that have an acidic ph balance tend to cause many health problems, such as cancer, stress, and aging.
 - Alkaline tissue with a high ph promotes health, strength, and helps in the aging process.
- What makes ionized water unique?
 - Three properties of ionized water are:
 - Made alkaline electronically
 - Small molecular clusters allow for better hydration.
 - Has a (-) electron charge which is good.
 - Ionized water is rich in antioxidants and the molecular bond found is an excellent solvent and transporter.
 - Ionized water that is excellent as a nutrient transporter and great at getting rid of cellular waste.
 - Medical science has discovered that as we age, we lose alkaline buffers in our body.
 - Every body needs hydration and ionized water hydrates better. The body heals itself with the aid of hydration.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Access & Youth Committee – City Liaison Dolores Gonzalez for Chair Tanya Winters

- Ms Gonzalez reported the committee was gearing up for the Austin Access Awards, online nomination form could be found at www.austintexas.gov/austinaccessawards. The Deadline for submitting nominations is on Friday July 13, end of business day. Experts will be conducting assessments for the businesses nominated and the committee is encouraging self nominations.
- AMCPD Chair Jesus Lardizabal announced that he had represented the Mayor's Committee at another meeting for the Barton Springs Pool accessibility project.

Awards & Employment Committee – Chair Ron Lucey

- The Awards Committee met on June 11 (today) to begin initial planning for the 2012 AMCPD Employment Awards.
- Commissioner Ron Lucey announced action items for the meeting included: securing a keynote speaker, following up with the top ten employers in Austin, updating the nomination forms, and securing bids for the venue.
- Commissioner Chip Howe will be submitting nominations for the Texas Governor's Committee Awards by the end of the month. This will include a nomination for the Martha Arbuckle Award for AMCPD's Disability Mentoring Day program.

4. **ACTION ITEMS:** A motion was made by Commissioner Chip Howe at the June 11, 2012 Meeting to get ADAPT of Texas to be presenters at the July AMCPD meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ron Lucey the motion was approved unanimously by all.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ron Lucey to not eliminate the requirement of a no step entrance, but to include the ability to issue waivers when topography would make it difficult to have a no step entrance in the Visitability addition to the City Code. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman Kieke; the motion was approved unanimously by all.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** No public hearings were held during the June 11, 2012 Meeting.

6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:**

Michael Zitz-Evanich, a citizen provided testimony on the positive effects of ionized water at the June 11, 2012 AMCPD meeting. He also said that Capital Metro Bus drivers were sending passengers to the back, when a person in a wheelchair was boarding the bus. He mentioned that the new traffic signals were helpful because they had a number countdown.

Nancy Crowther and Cathy Cranston, from ADAPT of Texas provided a brochure on the Texas Campaign for My Medicare Matters. They expressed a need for outreach and education to prevent deep cuts to the program. Already 130 organizations have signed onto the initiative, including the AMCPD. Medicare impacts a wide variety of people including children, healthcare providers, pharmacies, hospitals, and communities. ADAPT of Texas plans to reach out to other Texas Mayor's Committees to sign the My Medicare Matters petition. Commissioner Ron Lucey suggested that ADAPT go to the Governor's Committee to open up a dialogue with the other Mayor's Committees. For more information please visit www.MMMTX.org or call 1-855-442-0252.

7. **STAFF BRIEFINGS:** Dolores Gonzalez

- **Budget:** report: There were no expenses this month, leaving a fiscal year balance of \$6,005.00
- Dolores received an email from Planning, Development and Review staff, on the City's intent to incorporate all visitability requirements into the upcoming 2012 Ordinance. However, based on the 2006 International Residential Building Code Adoption, the no step entrance requirement would be difficult to incorporate. This being due to difficulties in construction and the cost of across the board implementation in all new construction on one and two family dwellings. The no-step entrance could impede the 2012 IRC from being adopted for building inspections. Though the issue is important to certain groups, would it be possible to move forward with the adoption of the 2012 IRC with all requirements for visitability except the no step entrance requirement. AMCPD made a motion to this request identified above in "Actions Items."
- The ADA Access & Sidewalk Taskforce had a meeting on May 30 that included a presentation by Public Works staff on project updates for the last 6 months and proposed projects for the coming months. Dolores does have the PowerPoint that she can share with the committee.
- The ADA Office held five trainings in May for 180 PARD employees.
- ADA Onsites for the month included PARD, Library, Austin Resource Recovery, EMS, and Public Works

CALENDAR

- June 15-17th Brain Injury Conference at Austin Marriott South
- July 13, 2012 Deadline Austin Access Awards Nominations
- Aug 2, 2012 Austin Access Awards at City Hall 5:30 pm
- Sept 14-15 CTD Annual Convention in McAllen, Texas
- CTD Pen 2 Paper deadline Aug 20, 2012 www.cotwd.org/pen2paper.html
- Sept 29, 2012 CTD Film Festival at Goodwill
- Oct 5-6, 2012 CTD Film Festival South Alamo Draft house
- Oct 16, 2012 White Cane Day at Republic Square Park
- Oct 17, 2012 Disability Mentoring Day

8. **Future Agenda Items:** My Medicaid Matters item was discussed for the July 09, 2012 Meeting

9. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the June 11, 2012 meeting by Commissioner Chip Howe; the motion was seconded by Commissioner George Luc. The motion was approved unanimously by all.