



## Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities Meeting Minutes August 10, 2015

Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (10 August, 2015)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on *10 August, 2015* at the Asian American Resource Center located at 8401 Rutherford Ln, inside Community Room #8.

MCPD Chair Tanya Winters called the Board Meeting to order at 12:05 PM

**Board Members in Attendance:** Chair Tanya Winters, Vice Chair Dolores Gonzalez, Commissioners Rick Hair, Andrew Harris, Diane Kearns-Osterweil, Marshall Mitchell, Robin Orlowski, Brian Owens, Danny Saenz, excused absence Deborah Trejo

**Staff in Attendance:** Lee Nguyen

1. **A motion** was made by Commissioner Andrew Harris to move item #5 Citizen Communication to Item #3 on the August 10, 2015 Meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rick Hair. All approved.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Vice Chair Dolores Gonzalez made a motion to approve the July 13, 2015 meeting minutes; Commissioner Marshall Mitchell seconded the motion. All approved.
3. **Citizen Communication:**
  - a. Boone Blocker Uber Access for more information on the program email [boonejblocker@austin.rr.com](mailto:boonejblocker@austin.rr.com)
  - b. John Woodley expressed concerns about accommodations for deaf and hard of hearing individuals at public meetings.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:** Update from MCPD By-laws Committee, possible proposed changes to by-laws. The Committee discussed the recommended changes from the MCPD By-Laws Committee.
  - a. A motion was made by Commissioner Rick Hair to accept the changes to the By-Laws recommended by the MCPD By-Laws Committee and forward them to the Audit and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marshall Mitchell. All approved.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:** For discussion and possible action
  - a. Presentation: Paul Tomasovic , Austin Code Division Manager and Patricia Link, Assistant City Attorney: Draft Reasonable Accommodations Ordinance – Briefing, Q & A, Recommendation, Comments and Concerns on the draft ordinance.
  - b. The Ordinance would put into place a process where City Code and Zoning Regulations could be modified as a reasonable accommodation under the Fair Housing Act for individual with disability to continue to live in their dwelling.

- c. Stewart Hersh a citizen spoke to the Committee about amending the existing ordinance No. 20140522-078 regulating construction of disabled access ramps for single family and duplex residential units, to include provisions for FHA.
- d. A motion was made by Commissioner Rick Hair to support Draft Reasonable Accommodations Ordinance as presented by Code. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marshall Mitchell. All approved.

e. **Committee Reports**

1. Access & Youth Committee

- Chair Tanya Winters reported that the Austin Access Awards was held on Thursday August 6, 2015 at City Hall, inside Council Chambers. Council Member Leslie Poole read the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Proclamation and Mayor Steve Adler presented the awards to winners. This year's winners were 93.3 KGSR Radio Austin, Maudies Triangle, Minh's Café, and Smashburger Mueller Airport.
- Vice Chair Dolores Gonzalez reported that the next Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) planning meeting would be taking place around August 24<sup>th</sup>. She will be sending out to the committee an agenda.

2. Employment and Awards Committee

- Vice Chair Dolores Gonzalez reported to the committee that she is arranging a meeting for the MCPD Employment and Awards Committee. She shared with the Commissioners a draft agenda for the meeting. The agenda included discussion for judges, nominations, and the keynote speaker.
- Vice Chair Gonzalez reported to the committee that the probable site of this year's Awards Program would be Wyndham Garden Austin Hotel. Last year's event, at this venue received good feedback on food and service.

6. **ACTION ITEMS:** Action items taken during the August 10, 2015 meeting. Please see item 4a under old business, and item 5d under new business.

7. **PUBLIC HEARING:** No public hearings were held during the August 10, 2015 meeting.

8. **STAFF BRIEFING:** Lee Nguyen

- Budget: report: There were no expenses in July leaving a fiscal year balance of \$6,005.00.
- Staff liaison Lee Nguyen reported that the City's ADA On site process was at about 90% completion. The office had emphasized departmental partnership in accessible facilities and training during the on sites with departmental ADA contacts.
- Staff liaison Lee Nguyen reported that the ADA Office had entered a partnership with Austin Resource Recovery to conduct a series of six disability and etiquette trainings for department employees, during the month of August.

**CALENDAR**

- Aug 13 Public Meeting in Houston to discuss Merger of Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). Elias Ramirez State Office Building Rooms 3c, 3d, 3e and 3f 5425 Polk St Houston, TX 77023 4:00-7:00pm

- Oct 14 White Cane Day
- Oct 21 Disability Mentoring Day

8. **Future Agenda Items**: Future agenda items were discussed during the August 10, 2015 meeting including:

- a. Staff Liaison Lee Nguyen will add the MCPD Rules and Procedures Recommendation as an item to the September meeting agenda.
- b. Staff Liaison Lee Nguyen will contact the SideWalk Program for an update on the SideWalk Master Plan, and ask for the history of sidewalks to be presented with the update.
- c. Commissioner Diane Kearns- Osterweil would like to discuss permitting for SXSW special events and how the process ensures access in the site-plans for people with disabilities. Staff Liaison Lee Nguyen will contact the Economic Development Department to get a presentation on a future agenda.

9. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the August 10, 2015, meeting by Commissioner Diane Kearns- Osterweil; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Rick Hair. All approved.