



MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (MCPD)

Access and Public Policy Committee Regular Meeting

May 08, 2016

**2:30 pm in Little Walnut Creek Branch, Austin Public Library
835 W Rundberg Ln, Austin, TX 78758**

Committee Members Present: MCPD Vice Chair Tanya Winters, Commissioners: Marshall Mitchell, Robin Orlowski and Danny Saenz,

City staff present: David Ondich, ADA Program Manager

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Interim Subcommittee Chair, Robin Orlowski.

- 1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** Each speaker signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will be called in order of sign-up and will be allowed three minutes to speak about items posted or not on the agenda
There were no citizens present at the time of this agenda item; however, an individual arrived late to the meeting. Citizen Communication was moved to the end of the agenda. During Citizen Communication, Mr. John Woodley spoke on 2 issues. First, he indicated that rules regarding metro access related to the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to have access to paratransit services should be changed. He would like the committee to request that the mayor and council recommend removing that requirement. Mr. Woodley also indicated that he would like the committee to look at the process by which the city ADA staff provides reasonable accommodations for citizen access to public meetings. He indicated that because the city requires that an agenda be posted before accommodation requests can be made, it causes a lower level of access to CART resources.
- 2. Old Business For Discussion and Possible Action:** There was no old business for discussion.
- 3. New Business For Discussion and Possible Action**
 - A. Election:** Elect MCPD Access and Public Policy Committee Chair - Commissioner Danny Saenz was elected Committee Chair. He will be recommended as Chair of the Access and Public Policy Committee to MCPD Chair Brian Owens at the MCPD monthly meeting on May 13, 2016.
 - B. Discussion: Priorities?**

- b1. Traffic/Transit/Mobility – Capital Metro public transportation programs specifically for people with disabilities were preliminarily discussed. Orlowski indicated that Capital Metro does not necessarily publicize all of its currently available programs and resources for people with disabilities. Orlowski stated that drivers vary in the type/quality of communication which they presently give out to passengers requiring the use of tether straps to safely secure a mobility device. Committee members and the ADA Office were not aware of the accessible touch fare card now being offered from Capital Metro. Mitchell said that he was frustrated that the city is still working on a sidewalk master plan. ADA Program Coordinator David Ondich said that the next general meeting will have an update from the public works department. Orlowski indicated that there is a new action group being formed called Project Connection 2025. Winters requested the times be shared with the MCPD at the next meeting. All Committee members agreed that they would like to see access training programs better publicize. More information on the Connections 2025 action group can be seen at <http://connections2025.org/outreach-events-2/> Ms. Orlowski recommended that a committee member attend at least one of the meetings. Orlowski passed out a system map and stated that public transit coverage has not kept up with the growth of Austin. She said Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) the Dallas area public transit agency has a ride call system which functions separate from para-transit. She was not personally sure how well this specific service worked. She would research both the organization and the customer perception/use for the next meeting.
- b2. Office of Equity – Tanya Winters and Robin Orlowski attended a community interest group meeting and learned that the Office of Equity was in the process of being staffed. There was some question regarding whether or not the position had been posted on the city website. Staff Liaison, Ondich indicated that he will research the status of the posting and report back to the committee. Winters had to leave the meeting for pre-disclosed reasons. Ondich said a quorum was necessary to conduct business at Committee meetings. Winters leaving did not end the quorum.
- b3. Other (ADA Office/ADA website revision...etc. – ADA Program Manager, David Ondich said that the City ADA website was in the process of being revised substantially. The Office will determine if it can directly link to government agencies which are legally located outside the City of Austin. Ondich clarified that the ADA Office does not need permission to link to the Boards and Commissions Office, including fellow boards such as the Human Rights Commission and the Austin Area Comprehensive HIV Planning Council. This is because they are formal members of the City of Austin boards and Commissions. The ADA Office does not need permission to link to City of Austin Offices such as EEOC Health and Human Services or Housing. Commissioners Orlowski Saenz and Mitchell were specifically interested in linking to government entities such as, Capital Metro's Access advisory Committee, and Austin Independent School District's special education advisory Committee. Interim Chair Orlowski said the Mayor's Committee is listed on the Governor's committee for People with Disabilities. Commissioner Saenz said that he had previously been involved with this organization.

Ondich said the City has to verify that all links submitted are accurate and official. There is a process for obtaining permission to link to certain non-city entities. He will follow up and provide more information at a future meeting

- b4. Meeting time for Committee – The permanent meeting time was moved to every third Monday from 1-3 pm. It is going to remain at the Little Walnut Creek Public Library until further notice or unless preempted. One monthly meeting on the City Hall Foyer or an alternate location on May 23 @1pm will be held to discuss items not addressed at this meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT – the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.