



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 1:00P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conference

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Myrna Cabanban

David Wolf

Robert Williams

Candace Cable

Richard Rothenberg

Alisa Schlesinger

Betty Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Iran Hopkins (excused)

Dr. Robert Bitonte (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney III, City Attorney's Office

Matthew Rudnick, General Manager & Chief Sustainability Officer, Recreations

and Park

GUESTS:

Calvin Lyons, President & CEO, Special Olympics Southern California

Clayton Frech, Executive Director, Angel City Sports

Michael Green, ACCESS

Louis Berns, ACCESS

Rachelle Andrews and Jila Mendoza, METRO

ITEM NO. (1): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The Commission will review the minutes of the February 2020 meeting and vote to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for February 10, 2020.

ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): METRO RAIL PROJECTS

Guest speakers Rachelle Andrews and Jila Mendoza from Metro's System-wide design group provided the Commission with updates on LA METRO's Rail projects.

- I. Speakers from METRO discussed Metro's System-wide design, a review of updates on LA METRO's Rail projects and conducted an overview of the current station standard design to improve the design and the functionality positions ensuring accessibility for all customers. In 2012 METRO developed a standard design for stations for how all stations will be designed and construction in the future. In 2018, the METRO board passed the policy to do an assessment for all metro stations including bus, rail, and RT stations and involved the Johnson Architect team as part of the development and recommended areas for assessment. METRO found

issues on the bus, rail and Rapid Transit stations having specific and different types of design elements at stations and on different rail lines. Their goal was to raise the bar of the overall station design with the other world class systems, to improve the legibility, making sure they are accessible, making sure the overall architecture has high quality with more durable materials, more elevators and escalators, clear visibility areas, no hidden areas or hidden pathways, and have very clear branding on the stations, buses, rail lines, and Rapid Transit stations. They also wanted to do an assessment of the station interior, such as the port entrance, the underground station, the above ground station, and the underground areas. They looked at 13 design elements as part of the project, but 6 elements that were assessed for accessibility such as station service materials, furnishing, advertising placement, and the application equipment. METRO also hosted a working group meeting to talk regarding the elements and input from each team member regarding, station security, facility maintenance, and accessibility. One example was the assessment on lighting Metro's facilities to ensure there is sufficient lighting, the light is not in a person's eye as they are going downstairs or on the platform, and more consistent lighting across the station area. Another example was the assessment on station floor to ensure the contrast with the floor and the path of travel was more distinctive and easier to use and to understand. The next meeting will be in April and will cover vertical circulation and will look at stairs, ramps, elevators, escalators, and the other areas for improvement.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): ADAPTED SPORTS AND RECREATION

Guest speakers provided the Commission with information about the 2028 Games, City plans regarding adapted and accessible recreation facilities, and other sporting and competition events for the Disability community.

- I. Speakers from the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks RFQ-Youth Adapted Sports and Fitness Program: Matthew Rudnick, Acting Assistant General Manager & Chief Sustainability Officer, will provide insight into the ongoing work at Recreation and Parks to expand adapted sports programs and facilities. The department oversees partnerships and develop relationships with nonprofit organizations, sponsors, donors, and other groups who support a variety

of park projects and services. In 2017 the International Olympic Committee awarded the 2028 Olympic and Paralympics games to the City of L.A. and provided a \$160 million contribution to increase youth sports participation leading up to the games. The department is seeking partner organizations to assist them with the development and implementation of youth adapted sports programs. A fundamental goal of the youth sports partnership is to address barriers to youth sports by working to achieve greater gender equity, by promoting inclusive programs for youth of all abilities, and by increasing access and opportunities for all Angelenos in the City. The youth sports partnership will essentially give the Recreation and Parks Department resources for free and very low-cost sports and fitness programs aligned with the sports that are shown in the Olympic and Paralympics games and an opportunity to broaden their adapted sports programs. Due to the pandemic, the vast majority of recreation programs have been suspended and structured programs have been suspended. As the City reopens from COVID shutdowns, they plan to launch the youth sports partnership with L.A. '28 and under the leadership of the Mayor's Office and City Council to ramping up the sports programs. They seek partner organizations with experience and expertise in the field of adapted sports and invites interested organizations to submit their qualifications in outreach, marketing, recruitment, physical asset design and planning, development, training, and delivery of adapted sports, fitness leagues, classes, clinics, camps, and related programs to the development and implementation of a variety of new youth adapted sports programs. The RFQ is posted on the city's business assistance virtual network or L.A. BAVN.org and on the Recreation and Parks website.

- II. Special Olympics and Intellectual Disability Inclusion: Calvin Lyons, Special Olympics Southern California President & CEO discussed the engagement and recreation opportunities for the intellectual disability community and ways that the community could be better represented, funded, and/or accommodated within sports and recreational activities. The mission of the Special Olympics Southern California is to enrich the lives of thousands of athletes through sports, health, leadership programs, build self-esteem, live healthier lives, and increase inclusion within communities. The organization offers nearly 231 competitions a year throughout Southern California. They also offer free health screenings, nutrition, and wellness programs, and leadership opportunities, toastmasters, and opportunities to serve on boards to lead full independent lives and opportunities to grow and develop. During the pandemic, they created virtual platforms where athletes can meet and

can keep moving to engage their muscles when they move back to an active environment. They also had a virtual programming called Move Across California that participants walked, skated, ran, biked from the San Diego/Mexico border up through the San Francisco. They also had a program where they sent participants a kit with jump ropes, different balls, and other equipment to their homes to help them get active.

- III. Update on Angel City Sports Annual event and year-round programs. Executive Director Clayton Frech provided general updates and news, along with updates on what events look like for the near future due to COVID and how sponsors, local government, or other interested parties can help. The Angel City Sports was born in 2013 to conduct year-round training, equipment, and competitive opportunities in over 20 sports, serve about 1000 athletes a year from all over the country, have about 50 Paralympians to help coach, hold workshops and clinics throughout the year for mental fitness, and have career development support. Their mission is to build something that is bigger than the Paralympic games and to bring everyone together. They serve kids, adults, and veterans with impairments, and serve people who have amputations, stroke, traumatic brain injuries, or visual impairment. They ensure the programming is appropriate for someone aspiring, competing, and training by bring in a high level of coaching. During the epidemic, Angel City Sports transition to a virtual platform and had their annual game last year. They had over 4000 participants from all over the world with almost 139 events. Currently, the Angel City Sports will be shifting to in-person at the end of the year.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ongoing update on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability. Since the federal funding around COVID-19 is heading out towards cities and states soon, the city is expected \$1.35 billion in relief funds and should bring some relief for the \$400 million plus gap revenue and \$600 million for next year. The department was going to have difficulty in filling positions from two staff that retired and would have lost the Public Information Officer because the of the budget gaps and will now advocate to keep those positions. March 15th will be the date when a broad range of people with disabilities will be available for vaccinations across California. The

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department and Commissioner Cabanban meet with the Mayor's Office and 11 community-based organizations representing people with disabilities to have a conversation about what needs are, address the equity and access issues, transportations issues, issues with documentation, and people in the communities who physically cannot get to vaccination sites. The participants of the meeting stressed very strongly that there cannot be burdens on people with disabilities to be able to have access to vaccines. The department is ensuring the sites are accessible and the ADA Compliance Officer and staff have been going to sites do assessments and making recommendations and changes.

The Department on Disability updated the Commission on Disability on the transportation to vaccination sites. Michael Green and Louis Berns, ACCESS Services on the transportation to vaccination sites. Currently, ACCESS Services has transportation routes in eight different sites throughout LA County including Dodger Stadium, Cal State L.A., Cal State Northridge, Fairplex in Pomona, and the Forum in Inglewood. In addition, they have done roughly 1,000 trips of transporting Access riders to drop offs at vaccination sites throughout the LA County.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

No suggested items for the next regular meeting's agenda and announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests, as well as follow-up items from this or previous commission meetings to be presented at the next meeting.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned in honor of Ruby De Vera, who passed away from complications of COVID-19.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:15 P.M.