COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 1:00P.M.
Department on Disability
Zoom Video Conference

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Myrna Cabanban
David Wolf
Iran Hopkins
Dr. Robert Bitonte
Candace Cable
Richard Rothenberg
Alisa Schlesinger
Robert Williams
Betty Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability
Geoffrey Straniere, ADA Compliance Officer, Department on Disability
Ricki Rosales, AIDS Coordinator, AIDS Coordinator's Office, Department on Disability

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney III, City Attorney's Office
Elis Lee, Community Engagement Manager, Bureau of Street Services

GUESTS:

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

The Commission will review the minutes of the May 2021 meeting and vote to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for May 12, 2021.

ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): SIDEWALK TRANSIT AMENITIES PROGRAM (STAP)

Guest speakers provided the Commission with information from local government, City and County experts and programs, including community-based organizations working to provide resources and access for the diverse unhoused community of Greater Los Angeles.

I. Elis Lee, Community Engagement Manager, Bureau of Street Services presented on the City's existing street furniture contract expiring at the end of 2021. The City is developing a successor program and envisions a world-class, self-sustaining program that provides shelter, shade, safety, and comfort with furniture that supports an increased use of transit and alternative transportation, local economic activity, and the shared use of City sidewalks. The Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (STAP) will replace and expand upon the existing program by January 2022 and are currently in the REP process and hoping to have a contract later this Fall. The primary function of the REP is to provide safe and support to transit riders. The program also aims to ensure that 75 percent of passengers

can board a bus, that the bus stop has a transit shelter in place, and to provide other services, such as improving the sidewalks. Bureau of Street Services has been doing a lot of outreach to different community members as part of efforts to engage the public to determine where the most need is in the community. They are using and applying mapping technology to help determine where bus shelters need to go based on ridership levels and heat index and proximity. They are currently working on increasing the digital technology panels to help all transit riders and expand the public toilet programs to 150 to 200 locations citywide.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): LONG TERM MEDICAL IMPACTS FROM COVID-19

Guest speakers provided the Commission with information about Covid-19 and individuals with long-term or persistent medical issues resulting from the virus, advocacy, and the Disability Community.

I. Dr. Eric Hanson, D.O., presented on Covid-19 and individuals with long-term or persistent medical issues resulting from virus, advocacy, and the Disability Community. Presenter was not able to make the Commission on Disability meeting for the month of June. The Commission on Disability will make future arrangements to confirm the speaker for the next meeting.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5): COMMISSION ELECTION – JULY

The Commission Election Process will begin with Nominations and Self-Nominations

I. The Commission Election Process will begin with Nominations and Self-Nominations for the following positions: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary. Open Election voting will be held at the next Commission Meeting on July 14, 2021. In preparation for the election, nominations and self-nominations for the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and Secretary officer positions will be

opened and the Commissioners may choose to nominate themselves or nominate others. The Department on Disability ask that any kind of CV or statement or resume be forwarded to Peter.Soto@LAcity.org for dissemination to the other commissioners.

Action Taken: Commission on Disability opened the election and are currently taking any nominations.

ITEM NO. (6): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ongoing update on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation was conducted by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Geoffrey Straniere, ADA Compliance Officer, and Ricki Rosales, AIDS Coordinator, AIDS Coordinator's Office, Department on Disability. DOD is currently in budget season and is closing the end of the fiscal year on June 30th and has meetings with the Mayor, City Council, and Budget Finance Committee reviews. DOD is looking at a budget that has a slight increase from about $4.8 million to an additional $480,000 that come from a special fund for accessibility from Building and Safety to particularly to work on having certified Access Specialists assessing all City facilities. DOD is seeking a few fully funded positions such as senior project coordinator that will be the ADA compliance officer responsible for managing the self-evaluation program, Public Information Officer to focus on accessible communication, graphic designer to do accessible design, a Community Program assistant to be working on homelessness issues, and Systems Analyst to make sure the VRI programs and other things are continue to grow. DOD is also getting funding on a pilot project for a student professional with disabilities that will have an opportunity to work in the civil service system. DOD is also working with the County Bar Association to offer a law referral to attorneys. DOD is also working on the self-evaluation plan to inventory of the conditions at each of the city departments, the facilities within the purview of those departments, the programs' activities and services offered by those departments for accessibility and is currently getting the vendors hired to do the work on getting the departments accessible.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. President Cabanban request a Metro presentation on the expansion of the bike lanes and Stephen David Simon will give an update on ReelAbilities and the visibility through out the City.

ITEM NO. (8): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:38 P.M.