



# **COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

## **MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 1:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conference

### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

David Wolf

Iran Hopkins

Dr. Robert Bitonte

Richard Rothenberg

Alisa Schlesinger

Robert Williams

Betty Wilson

### **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Candace Cable

Myrna Cabanban

### **DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:**

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

Jaime Pacheco Orozco, Assistant Executive Director, Department on Disability

**OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:**

Chris Lee, City Attorney Office

Jackie Lopez, City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department

Laura Island, Recreation Supervisor, City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department

**GUESTS:**

**ITEM NO. (1): FINDINGS TO CONTINUE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS PURSUANT TO AB 361**

Determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3) that, while the state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, this commission has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Action Taken: The Commission on Disability approved the teleconference meetings pursuant to AB361.

**ITEM NO. (2): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the May 2022 and the Commission on Disability voted to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for May 11, 2022.

**ITEM NO. (3): PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (4): RECREATION AND PARKS UPDATE – ADAPTIVE PROGRAMS**

Guest speakers provided the Commission on Disability with a highlight on their adaptive programs and general news on long term projects.

- I. Presentation is by Jackie Lopez and Laura Island, City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department, provided updates on the adaptive sports program and other important accomplishments in the adaptive sports division. They are currently launching a paraequestrian program with a community partner called Ride On, an experienced organization that has been offering lessons to individuals with disabilities since 1994. The riding lessons will take place on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> and the registration is full. The paraequestrian program will be offered year-around at no cost for youth participants. For the Summer program, Recreation and Parks will have parasurfing and will grow their adaptive swim program. For the Fall program, Recreation and Parks will have blind soccer and adaptive skateboarding. They are currently working on growing their marketing and outreach programs by teaming up with JTA Pacific, an organization that provides acutely targeted, goal-driven communications in the sports industry. Recreation and Parks department chose to utilize JTA Pacific because of their work with the 2028 Special Olympics. They have recently hired three additional full-time staff to maintain and launch programs for the citizens of Los Angeles and hope more funding will be made available to increase programs.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

**ITEM NO. (5): REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT ADVISEMENT LETTER TEMPLATES**

The Commission will review, discuss, and make any recommendations on the various draft letters which will be utilized to streamline the recommendation

process from the Commission to the City.

- I. Presentation is by the Department on Disability on the various letters to streamline the recommendation process from the Commission on Disability to the City. Peter Soto presented a draft letter that is used by the City Clerk as an example to use when the Commission on Disability wants to send a recommendation on a bill amendment, or to take a position on a current bill. The Commission on Disability will review the drafts and give the approval at the next Commission on Disability meeting.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

#### **ITEM NO. (6): AD HOC COMMITTEE FORMATION OLYMPICS/PARALYMPICS**

The Commission will discuss and form an Ad Hoc to focus on and research as needed any issues or recommendations regarding the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic/Paralympic games.

- I. The Commission on Disability created the Ad Hoc committee for the Olympics/Paralympics. Commissioner Rothenberg was self-nominated. Self-nominations for this committee will continue during the next Commission on Disability meeting.

Action Taken: The formation of the Ad Hoc committee for the Olympics/Paralympics.

#### **ITEM NO. (7): COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ELECTION - JULY**

The Commission on Disability election process will begin with nominations (and self-nominations) for the following positions: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary.

- I. The Commission on Disability election process opened the 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 07/13/2022. the Department on

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Disability will be taking the nominations and self-nominations for the following positions: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary. Commissioner Rothenberg nominated Commissioner Cabanban for President, Commissioner Bitonte nominated Commissioner Wolf for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Commissioner Rothenberg nominated Commissioner Bitonte for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Commissioner Rothenberg nominated Commissioner Williams for Secretary.

Action Taken: The election process is open and the Department on Disability will take the nominations and self-nominations for President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary until the next Commission on Disability meeting.

## **ITEM NO. (8): 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 and/or other department staff. Ricki Rosales, AIDS Coordinator, presented on SB 57 Controlled substances: Overdose Prevention Program and how the City could operate overdose prevention sites and safer injection sites. SB 57 would approve the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Oakland to operate overdose prevention programs for persons that satisfy specified requirements, providing a hygienic space supervised by trained staff where people who use drugs can consume preobtained drugs, provide sterile consumption supplies, provide access or referrals to substance use disorder treatment, and that program staff be authorized and trained to provide emergency administration of an opioid antagonist. The bill was introduced by Senator Scott Wiener and has been in legislation for the past two years. Last June, City Council voted to support the legislation and voted to incorporate the City of Los Angeles as one of the entities to be approved in the SB 57 bill. Peter Soto can send a factsheet to the Commissioners on SB 57. The Department on Disability is also currently working on a procurement process to advance the rights and digital inclusion of people with disabilities and older persons. The City of Los Angeles and DOD are also currently supporting the HIV and AIDS story circles. The ReelAbilities Film Festival is currently looking for a venue and will be taking place in the second or third week in October.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (9): 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. No new business and announcements at this time.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (10): ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:38 P.M.