Tempe

Minutes
Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns
October 5, 2015

Minutes of the MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS held on Monday, October 5, 2015, 6:30 P.M. at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural road, TLC Room, Tempe, Arizona, 85282.

MEMBERS Present:
Chair Irene Mochel
Vice Chair Paul Bennewitz
Ben Campbell
Jeff Oats
Kim W. Fisher
Rachel Phillips
Tom Ringhofer

MEMBERS Absent:
Diane Moran

Guests:

Oliver Ncube, Parks Manager
Dave McClure, Park Renovation and Restoration
Heidi Braswell, Guest

Diversity Staff Present:

Michele Stokes, ADA Compliance Specialist

Chair Irene Mochel called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

Public Appearances (Taken out of order)

Tempe resident Heidi Braswell, a member of the Diversity Dialog was invited to attend by Commissioner Rachel Phillips, requested the Commission to consider identifying what services are available for adults with intellectual disabilities with an IQ of 70 to 90 in Tempe. There are programs for youth and seniors, but she hasn't found many for adults. She said she has done research but there is not much available.

Commissioner Jeff Oats asked her to clarify. She is looking for recreation opportunities. Vice Chair Paul Bennewitz said that there are some programs with ARC of Tempe every other Friday night and that there are recreational programs, such as bingo, but it would be good to see what more is provided. Two events a month is not much, but it is something. Ability360 may also have activities as well for people with developmental disabilities and also there may be some activities for people who have autism spectrum disabilities.

Agenda Item 1 - Consideration of Minutes: MCDC – September 14, 2015 Minutes

The September 14, 2015 CDC Minutes were APPROVED, with minor corrections.
Motion: **Commissioner Tom Ringhofer.**
Second: **Commissioner Ben Campbell.** Motion carried.

Vice Chair Paul Bennewitz became available at 6:55 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Park Improvements Update – Oliver Ncube, Parks Manager and Dave McClure, Park Renovation and Restoration

Parks Manager Oliver Ncube and Dave McClure presented ADA features of the Kiwanis Park Playground Renovation and the system to assess park condition priority for installation of renovations. Parks were ranked from 1 to 5, with level 1 being the best condition and, 5 being the worst condition; this was a five year project. Everything we do includes ADA.

Currently the city has put $150,000 towards installing accessible parking spaces on the street near neighborhood parks. This is a separate project. People need to be able to park in accessible parking spaces. Commissioner Rachel Phillips asked if this was going to be in all parks. The answer was that some already have parking, and this is to create accessible parking in some parks where none exists.

Handouts were provided that indicates features available for installation in the parks and a collage of pictures that show the Kiwanis Park Playground equipment. These are located near the basketball courts.

Tempe provided more than the ADA required number of play elements. Kiwanis Park grand opening of the playground was last week. The presentation included the following information:

- All park renovations include ADA compliance within its scope of work. The parks are prioritized based on existing conditions from best to worse conditions.
- Inclusive Play design guide from "A Playworld Systems, Inc." showed definition of the equipment based on physical, sensory or social experiences desired. The design guide helps us selected amenities desires. Discussion was held on the types of equipment under each category. For example for physical we can select spinners, slides, rockers, etc.
- The handout included equipment and estimated cost of each.

Commissioner Rachel Phillips said it would be great if there was signage to identify the amenity because it is difficult to know how they are identified as physical, sensory or social.

Discussion was held on the specific amenities, installation, ground surface, panels under the sensory category which include tactile, auditory, visual, interaction with natural features and cozy places. Discussion was held on the ground surface hardness and measuring it.

Discussion was held on the transfer points of the slide feature which facilitate usage by kids using wheelchair. Commissioner Rachel Phillips asked if there were any liability issues with the equipment and kids with mobility limitations. All children take risk when playing on the equipment. The playgrounds are broken up by age groups to help parents know which playground to use that is age appropriate to help manage risk.

Discussion included the fact that there is a pickle ball court. Vice Chair Commissioner Paul Bennewitz commented that a Bocce ball court would be desirable as there are Special Olympics Bocce Ball competitions.

Question was raised on whether a child in a playground has to leave their wheelchair to get on the play structure.

Commissioner Kim Fisher said it would be good to have equipment that does not require someone to leave their wheelchair to play. There are parks already existing in other cities that have this type of equipment, including swings that a person can use while they are in the wheelchair and that information can be provided to you.

Discussion was held on how the public indicated what elements they wanted in the park. The information was provided via websites and at several meetings. Vice Chair Paul Bennewitz asked if they went to TCH to get feedback. They should be going to the areas where the kids are that use the park, they would have provided information that a Bocce Ball request. There are many businesses that serve people with disabilities who could have provided some additional feedback. Commissioners Commissioner Rachel Phillips suggested that they should go to the special education classes and ask the kids there, as well as TCH, also.

Commissioner Rachel Phillips said she had no idea this was going on, and information needs to get out more about these processes before they happen.

Commissioner Kim Fisher said that many kids in wheelchairs cannot use this equipment because they have to transfer. While you can come up to the equipment, you can't transfer. The one where you ramp up into the boat and it moves might be the only one that can be used. But there are whole parks that have been designed so that a child in a wheelchair can play without leaving their wheelchair. Some kids have no truss supports and cannot leave their wheelchairs. Parents will not bring their kids to parks where they cannot play, it is disheartening and children with disabilities who use mobility devices need play space too.

This should be considered for the next park that is considered for renovation. Chair Irene Mochel said that the CDC would like to provide feedback to increase access to for youth in Tempe. It is also important that the parking, curbs, sidewalks are all addressed at the same time as well.

Agenda Item 3 – White Cane Day – Chair Irene Mochel

Status of the Tempe Presents: White Cane Day: A Resource Fair scheduled for October 15 at the Lower Level of the Tempe Library at 3500 S. Rural, was shared.

Discussion was held on the event logistics – signage, dog-relief area, vendor table layout, employee training and day-of-the event training provided by Cody Franklin of Foundation for Blind Children, food provision through Connection Café, Maricopa Association of Government provision of free bags for the attendees, volunteers, publicity through the Public Information Office, an ASU reporter from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and more.

Chair Irene Mochel said it looks like we have a monster of an event scheduled. Final confirmation of 25 vendors is complete; arrangements made for ASL / Tactile Interpreters for individuals who are deaf/blind. Volunteers were requested to facilitate set up, guiding and tear down and the following have committed: Chair Irene Mochel (and husband Lynn), Vice Chair Paul Bennewitz (and son and friends), Commissioners Ben Campbell, Rachel Phillips, and Tom Ringhofer indicated they would be present and volunteer as guides.

Publicity included Public Information Officer Marie Chapple Camacho facilitated social media push and Ginny Belousek, Diversity Specialist, is facilitating the webpage information posting. Over 2000 mailers with Braille provided by Foundation for Blind Children went out to the Diversity mailing list which includes those who were invited to last year's Disability Awards. And about 4 hundred were distributed to other locations around town.

This item will be on the agenda next month to discuss evaluations and whether to host the event in 2016 and whether hosting it on a Saturday would be better.

Agenda Item 4 – Tempe Public Restroom Signage – Staff Michele Stokes

Contact was made with Public Works Department regarding the status of the possibility of requesting a code change or other solutions. Staff is awaiting response.

Agenda Item 5 –Commissioner and Staff's Announcements

Vice Chair Paul Bennewitz requested information on comparable census data to determine disability resident and employment data in Tempe, if possible, for discussion for next month's meeting.

ABILITY360 put out some information on legislation related to behavioral health that is being pushed which would take funds away from programs that use new approaches to redirect the funds to increase institutionalization.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Rachel Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Jeff Oats. Meeting adjourned at 7:55.

Prepared by: Michele Stokes

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Director