

Minutes
Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns
June 6, 2016

Minutes of the MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS meeting held on Monday, June 6, 2016, 6:30 p.m. at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road, Board Room, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

MEMBERS Present:

Chair Irene Mochel
Vice-Chair Paul Bennewitz
Rachel Phillips
Kim W. Fisher via phone
Wendy Benz via phone
Diane Moran via phone
Tom Ringhofer

MEMBERS Absent:

Jeff Oats
Ben Campbell

Guests:

Mar Pollock, Tempe Resident
Pamela Klein, Tempe resident

Diversity Staff Present:

Michele Stokes, ADA Compliance Specialist
Ginny Belousek, Diversity Specialist

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

Public Appearances

Mar Pollock, Tempe Resident, is interested in supporting the Commission. She is excited that Tempe is doing all it is for the disability communities.

Pamela Klein, Tempe Resident, is interested in volunteer opportunities. Staff will follow up with her.

Item 1 - Consideration of Minutes MCDC – May 2, 2016 Minutes

The May 2, 2016 CDC Minutes were **APPROVED**.

Motion: **Tom Ringhofer**, Commissioner.

Second: **Paul Bennewitz**, Vice Chair. **Motion carried.**

Item 2 - Mayor's Disability Awards Discussion – Chair Irene Mochel

Chair Irene Mochel said that the awards were excellent. The singer was a great addition and she thanked Vice-Chair Paul Bennewitz for facilitating that contact.

There were some areas that will be improved next year including recognition of sponsors and timing of the end to ensure food set up is scheduled earlier.

All commissioners need to help this year as commission staff cannot do it all. The event keeps growing and Ginny Belousek will be also assisting.

Commissioners commented on the amount of follow up press that is still occurring. East Valley Tribune and the Wrangler and others had articles about the Award winners.

Staff said that the Mayor has confirmed for next year's Awards and the TCA Lakeside room will be held for this date: **April 25, 2017, 3 to 5 p.m.**

Diversity Specialist Ginny Belousek commented on priorities for 2017 Disability Awards:

-
- Ginny was tasked to ensure that the community could participate in the planning and the answer is yes. There are no restrictions as it is not a Commission sub-committee, it is a department event.
 - The event has very little funding, so fund raising is crucial for 2017 Awards.
 - The event was over capacity for the space, so we need to address that issue. Commission staff will explore other venues, such as Tempe Mission Palms and others, to see if the cost is comparable for a larger facility. Another option would be to issue tickets or limit guests or awards.
 - Discussion included whether the theater at TCA, or a high school gym, would be acceptable. Further review is needed to ensure access for those using mobility devices.
 - Commissioners discussed possibility of having vendor bags to hand out after the event to showcase sponsors or to consider vendors to raise funds.
 - This will be a standing item on all future agendas.

Item 3 – 2016 Annual Report – Irene Mochel

Staff presented a list of items for inclusion in the CDC Annual Report. It is due in July. Commissioner suggested adding a list of media coverage obtained, if possible. The report will be submitted before the next CDC meeting, so there may not be an opportunity to review the report prior to submission.

Item 4–ADA Transition Plan Status - Vice Chair Paul Bennewitz

Information received from the Public Involvement Process and the May 4, 2016 Open house will be summarized and available by the July meeting.

The next step is to prioritize the comments and the findings from the survey to prioritize what to fix first. A plan to identify a schedule and funding will then be generated.

The city is currently developing the scope of Phase 2 which will include much more right of way, emergency management review, and more parks.

Commissioner Tom Ringhofer said that there was a problem with the sidewalk that Fry's at Southern and Mill recently installed. It ends in a hard curb. Staff will review.

Item 5 Information Access in Tempe – Comm. Kim W. Fisher

There were conference phone difficulties and Commissioner Kim W. Fisher's connection was lost.

Chair Irene Mochel explained that a meeting had been held between Commissioner Fisher, herself and staff. The plan will be to find out what the needs are from the disability community for information access in Tempe by conducting a needs assessment specifically to gain comments on what needs to change specifically – i.e. website font, options for Easy English, colors, audibility of written information, voice activation, payment processing, etc.

This **Communication Needs Assessment** can be conducted several ways: Round Table meetings, surveys, meeting with individuals one on one; meeting at agencies, etc. A survey can be created to facilitate information gathering from organizations and individuals who have intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, blindness and low vision, Hard of Hearing and Deaf; etc. Once we know what is needed, then a Proclamation can be developed that encourages the city to make changes.

Discussion was also held on **identifying and inviting department IT or Website specialists** who could indicate how their websites interact with the public, i.e. payment processes, scheduling services, maps, Police, Fire, Water, etc.

Item 6 – Promoting Toilet Room Access – Comm. Tom Ringhofer

The issue will be promoted via Tempe Today insert for October (Ready for submission in August) with a statement along with other CDC activities occurring in October, i.e. Job Fair. There was a concern about the cartoon, as the copyright is not obtainable. Commissioners suggested someone take a picture to include.

Item 7 – Announcements

Commissioner Rachel Phillips announced that Pyle Senior Center newsletter has information about volunteers available to help people at home.

Chair Irene Mochel led the discussion as to whether commissioners wanted to skip a meeting during the summer. Commissioners want to meet.

Commissioner Tom Ringhofer announced that he recently received a Lockbox and Vial of Life through the Tempe Office of Strategic Management and Diversity.

Commissioner Wendy Benz announced that she is working on a project related to a potential accessible parcourse (outdoor fitness equipment) near Tempe Town Lake, on the north side of the lake just east of the Mill Avenue bridge, above the sand volleyball courts. The site is flat and vacant; and there are 12 accessible parking space and an accessible sidewalk curb ramps in the immediate vicinity. She has approached Ability 360 Sports and Fitness Center about the possibility of partnering to pursue funding for the installation of equipment and holding programs there; they are interested. Commissioner Benz will be working with the Tempe Planning Department to pursue inclusion.

Motion to adjourn: **Vice Chair Paul Bennewitz**

Second: **Comm. Rachel Phillips**

Motion Carried - Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Prepared by: Michele Stokes

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Office of Strategic Management and Diversity Director