



COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES MINUTES Thursday, September 19, 2019 5:30 PM

ART PICK CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL,
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, 92522
GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 951-826-5427

MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the Commission on Disabilities is to promote greater awareness of, respect for, and the total participation of individuals with disabilities into all aspects of life."

State law restricts the Commission on Disabilities from taking action on an item unless it has been included on an agenda and posted at least 72 hours in advance of a meeting or unless the matter falls within one of the narrow exceptions. Consequently, any item not listed on this agenda will normally have to be delayed until the item can be made part of a posted agenda.

CALL TO ORDER: 5:31 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ABSENT: Chairperson Gregory Alexander (excused). The meeting was chaired by Vice-Chair Kimberly Lopez.

Albert Davis arrived at 5:41 pm.

Also in attendance were General Services Director Carl Carey and ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon.

1. **Public Comment Period** - This is the portion of the meeting specifically set aside to invite your comments regarding any matter within the Commission's jurisdiction. Individual audience participation is limited to 3 minutes.

Assistant Principal Vinh Tran, Pachappa Elementary School was delayed and the public comment portion of the meeting was reopened for her comments. The meeting started with presentations.

Assistant Principal Tran found out about the COD because her school services students with autism. She and her principal are also looking for ways to raise awareness. They would like to conduct an autism walk in April 2020 and requested COD and Community support to proceed with this project. The COD agreed to partner with Pachappa Elementary on the project.

Commissioner Nelson noted that RUSD CAC would also be able to help with the Autism Walk. The COD congratulated Commissioner Nelson on having his own business.

Lisa Salamon is a commercial property owner in Riverside. She has seen an increase in homeless residents on Merrill Street near Brockton Avenue. She is concerned that as a property owner, she has had difficulty in determining the right avenues to find resolution to the issues she is experiencing. Some of the homeless are veterans, some are drug addicted and there are other issues. Trash, carts, people's belongings, defecation, ripped fencing to enter her business parking lot are difficult issues to manage. What are her resources? This problem is in the Magnolia Center and in her home neighborhood. She would like to find out resources for the problem as a property owner, business owner and resident of the City.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Presentation from the California Mentor Family Home Agency about how Mentors provide Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities services and support needed in family homes.

Program Recruiter Travis Turner, California Mentor Family Home Agency, provided a presentation on the services provided by this agency. Mr. Turner noted that this program provided foster care for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These individuals would be supported by the Inland Regional Center (IRC). Family homes are with families who are empty nesters and are looking to foster adults in need. The program covers all of Riverside County. Homes need to be certified to make sure they can provide services focusing on health, safety and the enrichment of those needing support. Many supports are offered through this program, including professional consultants, case workers, and only two individuals in each home, offering individual support and a family dynamic that is not often found in a group home or care facility. Foster homes welcome clients as part of their family and receive opportunities for personal growth and development.

In response to a question from Commissioner Lewis about how families are recruited and what did they need to do, Mr. Turner responded that there are a variety of ways families are recruited: Classified ads, public events throughout Riverside County and any other way he can find good people who are willing to open their homes. There would be home inspections to make sure the environment is safe, i.e. chemicals are locked away, mentors must be CPR and first aid certified, trained in de-escalation techniques, and courses about the rights of those served.

3. Presentation from the Inland Regional Center about the annual Community Fall Festival, Resource Fair and Carnival on Sunday, October 27, 2019 on Main Street and University Avenue in Riverside, California.

The Inland Regional Center (IRC) serves San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. They serve about 40,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with about 800 staff. Since Riverside is the City of Inclusion, the IRC decided to start having more events in Riverside. For more information visit: Inlandrc.org, community@inlandrc.org, this link goes to the PR team if the COD would like advertising in the IRC Community.

This presentation was received by the COD.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

This portion of the Commission on Disabilities Agenda is for all matters where staff and public participation is anticipated. Individual audience participation is limited to 3 minutes.

4. Board and Commission Attendance Policy concerning the July 18, 2019 meeting: Antonia Quezada (unexcused) and Sharron Lewis (excused)

Commissioner Quezada noted that she was absent due to illness.

M/S Lewis / Davis to excuse Commissioner Quezada from the July 18, 2019 COD meeting due to illness.

AYES – 8 (Lewis, Davis, Krick, Lopez, Foust, Perkins, Nelson, Aleman); NOES - 0; ABSTAIN – 1 (Quezada); ABSENT – 1 (Alexander)

5. Minutes for the meeting of July 18, 2019

M/S Lopez/Nelson to approve the minutes from July 18, 2019 as presented.

AYES – 7 (Davis, Krick, Lopez, Foust, Perkins, Nelson, Aleman); NOES - 0; ABSTAIN – 2 (Lewis, Quezada); ABSENT – 1 (Alexander)

COMMUNICATIONS

6. Brief reports on conferences, seminars, meetings attended by Commission on Disabilities Members.

Commissioner Lewis requested support from the COD for the 2nd Growing Up Special Event which takes on October 18, 2019. The location is the IEHP office off Tyler Blvd., from 9 am – 1 pm. The COD agreed to offer support for this event.

Items for Future Consideration:

- a. Presentations about employment and disabled youth. Invite Parks and Recreation. Compile a list of sports programs available for people with disabilities. Former COD Commissioner Keith Nelson answered with Commissioner Ryan Nelson. He stated that Special Olympics was did not accommodate consumers as they got older and prepared for a more community based life. He is searching for programs where athletics included everyone in the community. A group in San Diego, Sports for Exceptional Athletes and all events are unified for people of all abilities. Locally, an adult league is a possibility for the future. The current league that Commissioner Nelson is involved with competes in a traditional adult league. He noted that social recreation was defunded about 10 years ago by the State and every year the State promised IRC that the funding would be returned. Funding has not been returned. Without that funding, most adult consumers lack even the funds for transportation or league membership. Sports and recreation are important to development and transition into community living.

Commissioner Foust noted that equestrian therapy is very beneficial for people with developmental disabilities, but funding and transportation were difficult issues.

- b. Update of employment PSA.
- c. Update of brochures.
- d. Make COD members available to provide presentations for other groups.
- e. Going before Council to let them know what is happening with the COD – Quarterly
- f. Agenda item to discuss how the COD can be more public.

Commissioner Krick stated that mass transit is area of concern. Riverside noted that the City received new vans and provides mass transit for people with disabilities and RTA programs. He is also interested in a service where people are trained on bus riding. Also, what buses are available?

Commissioner Lewis asked about the hours of operation for transit. A community complaint is that after a certain time, bus services are not available. She also noted that the COD needs to do a better job of publicizing their existence. Also school districts need to be aware of the COD and what we do as a resource to parents. Maybe social media can be used.

Commissioner Davis noted that Parks and Recreation provide a brochure that is mailed to everyone in the City. Something similar would be a good way to publicize the COD.

- g. What happens when a child / adult with disabilities is arrested? Invite a representative from the Riverside Police Department. A Riverside Police Department representative will be invited to provide a presentation.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:08 pm

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, November 21, 2019, Art Pick Council Chambers, 5:30 pm.