



City of Madison

Meeting Minutes - Final

COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Thursday, May 25, 2006

4:30 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 260 (Madison Municipal Building)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:38 PM. The meeting was properly noticed.

2. ROLL CALL

Alder Paul E. Skidmore arrived at approximately 5:00 PM, at the beginning of discussion of Item 6.

Left the meeting early: Monahan - phone conversation stopped at 5:10 PM, during the discussion of item 7; Banks - left during the discussion of item 7 because of illness at 5:10 PM.

Present: Mary P. Conroy, Robert P. Monahan, Michael W. T. Howe, Randy G. Black, Nancy R. Kathman, Jeff C. Erlanger, Alice J. Fike, Linda M. Russell and Gregory B. Banks

Absent: Ald. Paul E. Skidmore

Excused: Michael C. O'Connor

Monahan appeared telephonically

Staff present: Lucía Nuñez, Director, DCR; Angela Bennett.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. MINUTES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of April 27, 2006, Special Meeting

The Commission took up this item after item 15b on the agenda.

The commission made the following corrections to the special meeting minutes:

In item 3, section (2) include the words "and men's" before accessible restroom; After section (2), add the following: (3) Regarding the Media room: There was no video captioning on the video. A Commission member asked Overture staff to look into video captioning of the video. (4) The power assist door from the Henry Street entrance did not open wide enough, due to shape of the door handles. The Commission asked that the Overture either change the door handle or fix the door so that it opens wider. (5) there was some concern about there being only one fully accessible restroom in the entire facility, with the other one titled a family friendly restroom as opposed to an accessible restroom.

Discussion during the correction of the minutes included a statement that the Commission would like sensor faucets in the other accessible restrooms in the building.

A motion was made by Banks, seconded by Erlanger, to Approve the Minutes with corrections. The motion passed by acclamation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of April 27, 2006, Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Black, seconded by Fike, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.

5. REPORT FROM THE DCR DIRECTOR - Lucía Nuñez

Developments regarding the new DCR:

The director updated the Commission on the following: (1) Chapter 39 will be on the June 6 Common Council agenda. (2) Some staff completed training on the interpreter equipment, (3) 31 people applied for the recruiter position; HR is looking over the applications, (4) The sick leave ordinance did not pass, (5) the DCR is planning a presence at various Summer Festivals, with members of different commissions assisting, (6) She and staff met with Engineering and gave comments on the curb ramp policy, (7) She met with representatives of community groups and as a member of a group on Real ID. The Director explained that Federal law will require the "Real ID," with different documentation requirements than the current Wisconsin driver's license has, when entering Federal courthouses, and flying on airplanes.

6. REPORT FROM THE COMMON COUNCIL - Alder Skidmore

Actions taken during the May meetings:

The Alder came into the meeting just as the Commission took up this item. He reported that the council voted down the sick leave ordinance after a long meeting.

Present: Ald. Paul E. Skidmore, Mary P. Conroy, Robert P. Monahan, Michael W. T. Howe, Randy G. Black, Nancy R. Kathman, Jeff C. Erlanger, Alice J. Fike, Linda M. Russell and Gregory B. Banks

Excused: Michael C. O'Connor

7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - Nancy Kathman

Actions taken during the May meeting:

Kathman reported that: (1.) the People First new draft included the term "emotional disabilities" and that the Executive Committee recommended that the full Commission (a) approve it, with reservations. The Committee recommended asking the alder to ask the city attorney to investigate the use of certain words, like whether "mental illness" is more appropriate than "emotional disabilities" as People First language for "emotional handicap." (b) the word "impairment" is in the Federal law, and could not be changed. Staff read from the unapproved minutes of CPD Executive meeting the following motion: "Conroy moved and Kathman seconded that the Committee recommend to the Full Commission that it approve the current draft second substitute of March 6, with the addition that the CPD wants its Alder to ask the City Attorney if other words can be used to describe "persons with emotional disabilities" that is equally inclusive and expresses the intent of this ordinance to use People First language." The members of the Executive committee verbally agreed that this was a fair description of the discussion. (2) the Committee passed on a draft of the Debo letter, (3) the Committee discussed the curb ramp policy and that there was still time for input into the policy (D) gas station

accessibility: (a) may be an EOC issue or a public education issue, and (b) the CPD may need to seek more information.

Banks and Monahan left the meeting during the discussion of this item.

Chair noted for the record that there were 7 members remained in the room, and the meeting still had quorum.

Present: Ald. Paul E. Skidmore, Mary P. Conroy, Michael W. T. Howe, Randy G. Black, Nancy R. Kathman, Jeff C. Erlanger, Alice J. Fike and Linda M. Russell

Excused: Robert P. Monahan, Michael C. O'Connor and Gregory B. Banks

8. REPORT FROM THE DCR ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Jeff Erlanger

Actions taken in May by the Committee:

Erlanger reported that there was no meeting in May; the Committee will meet on June first.

9. REPORT FROM THE PARKING COUNCIL FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES - Mary Conroy

Actions taken during the May meeting:

Conroy reported that there were no actions to report, but the Council is seeking new members. Anyone interested should contact Bill Putnam, at Traffic Engineering and/or apply through the Mayor's office.

10. REPORT FROM THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION - Michael Howe

Actions taken during the May meeting:

Howe reported that the Director reported all that the EOC did.

11. REPORT FROM THE ADA TRANSIT SUBCOMMITTEE - Jeff Erlanger

Actions taken during the May meeting:

Erlanger reported that ADATS passed two motions (1) to buy new busses for Paratransit, (2) to enter a contract to get more money from Medicaid. ADATS also discussed that some members were disappointed that CPD did not want to join with ADATS to commend Ms. Debo, but then decided to make it's own commendation for her.

12. REPORT FROM THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMMISSION - Gregory Banks

Actions taken during the May meeting:

Mr. Banks was no longer present, due to illness.

A motion was made by Skidmore, seconded by Erlanger, to refer this item to next month's agenda. The motion passed by acclamation.

13. REPORT FROM THE DISABILITY RIGHTS SPECIALIST

Actions taken during the month of May:

Staff reported that: (1) On procedures for MGO 3.72 : according to the City Attorney, the procedures had not been approved by the Common Council, and that this was a

necessary step before the procedures could come into effect. The Commission discussed revising the procedures before they go to the Common Council. (2) Textnet: The City is switching from using TTY phones to using Textnet, and the training is proceeding. The Commission discussed the following regarding Textnet: One member had used Textnet and found that, while she was not opposed to Textnet, she had the following problems with it: Deaf people who use TTY's often get garbled messages from Textnet, and Textnet uses the Illinois Relay, not the Wisconsin Relay. Individuals sometimes become confused when they get a call from Illinois rather than Wisconsin through the relay. The member did not want to fully eliminate the use of TTY phones because a computer is not always functional, and can break down-leaving the person with no way to communicate and the 911 emergency service does not use Textnet.

The CPD and staff discussed the following regarding Textnet: (1) the CPD's position on the use of Textnet, (2) the City's consultation with the CPD in making this decision, (3) having IS demonstrate the use of Textnet interfacing with a TTY phone to test it and show either (a) that it works or (b) any problems, (4) having the DRSPC research the use of the Illinois versus Wisconsin relay system. (5) recommending that Jack Castle, who works for the State Department of Administration, come to the Commission, to give the CPD feedback about Textnet, at the same time that the IS department is making the demonstration.

14. OLD BUSINESS

a. #01853 People First Language in Ordinances

Kathman reiterated what she reported during Item 7: that the Executive Committee recommended to approve the new draft using the term "emotional disabilities" with reservations that the use of "emotional disabilities" may not always be appropriate and that the use of the term "mental illness" may be more appropriate.

The Commission discussed the following regarding the Ordinance:

Staff added that the Executive Committee also recommended that the Commission take up the substitution of "impairment related mobility device" for "wheelchair" and the mandate to use People First language in city signs in other ordinances. One Commission member was opposed to ordinance in general because language changes all the time and the ordinances would need to be updated as the language changes. Russell asked to be put on the record as being opposed to the word "impaired" and "impairment" to describe a person because it reflects dysfunction. Skidmore stated that he would take direction from the CPD regarding what it would like to do, but did not want to take direction from outside of the CPD. He wanted to be sure that what he did represented what the body would like to do.

A motion was made by Conroy, seconded by Fike, that Alder Skidmore ask the City Attorney to suggest what different language besides "individuals with emotional disabilities" could be used in the ordinance where there are references to "emotionally handicapped."

The motion passed by acclamation.

01853

SUBSTITUTE - Amending Secs. 1.08, 3.23, 3.35, 3.36, 3.38, 3.48, 3.51, 3.52, 3.59, 3.72, 8.35, 9.13, 11.06, 12.03, 22.14, 23.56, 27.05, 28.03, 28.04, 28.08, 28.11, 28.12, and 31.04 of the Madison General Ordinances to update references to handicapped and/or disabled utilizing People First language.

A motion was made by Conroy, seconded by Russell, to Rerefer to the COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES for next month's agenda. The motion passed by acclamation.

b. Curb Ramp Policy from City Engineering Division: Comments to DCR by May 30, 2006

The Commission discussed that individuals could always request that the City install or repair a ramp, even outside of the policy. Staff reported that the staff of the Engineering Department, DCR and Traffic Engineering met and made comments regarding the policy. These comments will be incorporated into the policy and will be presented to the Board of Public Works at their next meeting.

c. Scheduling Goals and Objectives Session: August

The Chair reported that the Executive committee recommended that the goals and objectives meeting be held in August, with the only question remaining whether to have both a goals and objectives meeting and the regularly scheduled meeting. The Chair polled the group.

A motion was made by Erlanger, seconded by Kathman, that goals and objectives be the topic on the regularly scheduled meeting in August. The motion passed by acclamation.

The Chair stated that (1) staff should schedule a facilitator for the goals and objective, and (2) the Executive committee would discuss this issue and then (a) may recommend to the Full Commission where to hold the meeting and whether it will be televised or (b) may decide these issues itself.

d. Accessibility of Fuel at Gas Stations

The Commission did not discuss this item further, at Chair's suggestion, because it had been covered earlier.

15. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Nomination of CPD rep to ADATS (Erlanger's term expires 4/30/06)

A motion was made by Fike, seconded by Conroy, to recommend to the mayor that he renew Erlanger's appointment to the ADATS. The motion passed by acclamation.

b. Elections of all officers

This item was taken out of order.

A motion was made by Conroy, seconded by Fike and Erlanger, to take this item right after item 3 on the agenda. The motion passed by acclamation.

The Commission nominated the following: Conroy nominated Jeff Erlanger, Chair and Nancy Kathman, Vice Chair; Banks nominated Michael Howe, Chair, Alice Fike, Vice Chair; Russell nominated Mary Conroy as Vice-Chair; Ms. Conroy declined the nomination. The Commission voted by secret ballot, with staff

assisting Black and taking Monahan to vote in secret and counting the ballots.

The Commission elected Michael Howe, Chair and Alice Fike, Vice-Chair.

16. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

One member suggested that the Commission have sessions on safety for those in emotional crisis, and reported that there was a coalition that is seeking reforms, and that has a protocol that they wanted to suggest. Staff reported that the Chief would be very willing to present to the Commission what the police training is and how they respond to individuals in emotional crisis. However, he asked that the Commission wait until communication had been opened up between the Chief and Communities United before responding to the Commission on the specific issue of the crisis intervention proposal from Communities United.

Another member suggested inviting a representative from other communities that have a crisis intervention team, such as Appleton, to be at the meeting with the Chief and Communities United.

Another member suggested a Town Hall meeting or a presentation to the Deaf Community, by Lucia and Angela, regarding the function of the disability rights program. The Chair suggested that this discussion, including location, start on the Executive Committee in June or July, pending interpreter availability.

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made prior to adjournment.

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

A motion was made by Erlanger, seconded by Ald. Skidmore, to Adjourn. The motion passed by acclamation.