



## Commission on Persons with Disabilities

### MEETING MINUTES

2 p.m., Thursday, April 9, 2009

Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room, Kahului

#### I. **Call to Order:**

Chair Andrew Valentine called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Karen Hue Sing-Ledesma; Feleciana Sales; Charlotte Seales, Vice Chair; Tracy Souza; Andrew Valentine, Chair

**Staff Present:** Deputy Corporation Counsel Kim Sloper; Parks Inclusion Specialist Tara Sabado; Office on Aging Program Specialist James Mariano  
Commission Staff Jan Roberson; Office of the Mayor Gary Frampton

**Guests Present:** Charlotte Smith; Ramoda Anand

**Commissioners Excused:** Linda Liddell; John Briley; Marguerite Rowland

**Others Excused:** ADA Coordinator DJ Schwind; State Council on Developmental Disabilities Program Specialist Mary Matsukawa

#### II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 10, 2009**

Commissioner Souza MOVED to accept the minutes as is. Commissioner Hue Sing Ledesma SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

#### III. **PUBLIC TESTIMONY - None**

#### IV. **REPORTS**

##### **A. ADA Coordinator - None**

##### **B. Inclusion Specialist Tara Sabado**

The Department of Parks and Recreation concluded its Wheelie Tennis and Basketball clinics in April 2009. P&R will continue to sponsor the W-Tennis program through October 2009 and invite more public participation. The W-Basketball will form a Maui Chapter from the existing non-profit organization Wheelchair Sports Hawaii group located on Oahu. This organization will partner with P&R to recruit more players to create the team and raise funds for equipment as long term goal. More events are planned. Increasing participation is key for expansion of County-sponsored events.

##### **C. Molokai - None**

#### **D. Parks and Recreation**

Commissioner Hue Sing-Ledesma **MOVED** that the Commission send a letter to the Mayor, CC Housing and Human Concerns Director Tshako and Parks and Recreation Director Tamara Horcajo to inquire about the naming of the Wailuku Tennis Courts for Smally Kaiwi and a memorial plaque. Commissioner Souza **SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Hue Sing-Ledesma noted that she had received a complaint from Nani Watanabe that Kalama Park accessible tables were often in use by families with small children. Parks Inclusion Specialist Sabado said she would request the Parks Department place an accessible sign on these tables.

Commission Chair Valentine noted that the Veterans Council of Maui had done outreach at Kamaole III wondering where the beach access chairs were located. Inclusion Specialist Sabado said the lifeguards set one out, and the other is in the shed, and can be requested from lifeguards. She said she is working with the Parks Department's Aquatics Division on Mobi Mats, which will assist wheel chair users to access ocean over the sand.

Staff Roberson distributed a county media release announcing Accessibility Improvements at Launiupoko Beach Park to begin April 13, 2009, with restrooms to close for three months during construction of two separate accessible dressing/toilet rooms, one each for men and women. Handicap-accessible portable toilets will be provided to accommodate beach-goers during the restroom closure. The project also calls for the installation of additional accessible picnic tables, barbecues and viewing benches, and the construction of new pathways to connect the restrooms with newly-designated handicap parking stalls and all of the park's accessible amenities. The \$543,000 contract, awarded to contractor David P. Ting & Sons, also included accessibility improvements at the Lahaina Civic Center and the War Memorial Football Stadium. The project was designed by Calvin Higuchi of Hiyakumoto + Higuchi Architects, Inc.

#### **E. State Council on Developmental Disabilities**

Mary Matsukawa provided a handout on the recent proposal to cut funding to the Disabilities Communication Access Board, a measure that was withdrawn.

#### **F. Transportation**

Commission Chair Valentine reported that Roberts Hawaii is doing a good job with its paratransit system. They have added straps for wheel chair tie downs.

Commissioner Hue Sing-Ledesma said riders on regular bus are impatient during the 10-minute process to load riders in wheel chairs. Drivers must report to dispatch when they pick up a rider in a wheel chair, so it seems to single out and call attention to riders with disabilities. Commissioner Hue Sing Ledesma **MOVED** to send a letter to the mayor, CC Housing and Human Concerns Director Tsuhako and Transportation Director Medeiros to implement a code so that when drivers call in to report that they are transporting a rider in a wheel chair, persons with disabilities are not singled out or blamed for bus running late. Commissioner Souza **SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **G. Volunteer Parking Enforcement Program - None**

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Annual Awareness Event Planning**

- Staff Roberson reported that Wailuku Community Center was reserved for August 4, 2009 for the Commission's second annual awareness event. She circulated one set of materials related to last year's event, including the letter of invitation to program speakers, the printed programs, list of agencies to invite, media releases, etc. She suggested the Commission decide on a theme, title, speakers, and a budget before the next meeting. She will send last year's files via email to the Commissioners.
- Commissioner Hue Sing-Ledesma will work on the Theme & Title
- Vice Chair Seales will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies
- Commissioner Souza **MOVED** that the Commission send a letter to Director of Housing and Human Concerns Tsuhako requesting her to let the Commissioners know whether the Department can afford to provide any funds for the event refreshments, and if so what amount they might expect. The letter will also request the Department authorize Staff Roberson to design a flyer, media release, invitation letters to agencies, potential speakers and entertainers, and a printed event program; and to authorize use of the Department copy machine to produce copies of the flyer, letters, and program. Commissioner Hue Sing-Ledesma **SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**
- The letter of invitation to the agencies to have an informational exhibit at the event will **include a request to donate a pot luck item.**
- The event will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Parks Inclusion Specialist Tara Sabado will serve as a speaker

- The event will have informational exhibits, entertainment, refreshments, and speakers, following the Senior Fair format.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**VII. AGENDA SETTING**

- Invite MEO Transportation Director Harry Johnson to provide a full report on its paratransit, including registered riders and what steps it is taking to promote service and increase ridership.
- Invite Transportation Director Medeiros to report on fixed route access points. The Commissioners noted that the drop off at the Waiale Street location of the Community Clinic of Maui is steep, ditch water runs off. Larger buses cannot get closer because the steep parking lot scrapes the undercarriage of the bus. Perhaps a smaller bus is needed?
- Request Mayor to designate two surface street stalls and ask her to have ADA Coordinator Schwind look into the Lahaina Gateway Shopping Center access, as the curb cut is too far from the main stores.

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None

**IX. ADJOURNMENT** - Chair Valentine adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Jan Roberson, MPA

Commission Staff