

COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 9, 2010

Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room

I. **Commissioners Present:** Andrew Valentine, Tracy Souza, Feliciano Sales, Linda Liddell, John Briley, Jr., Karen Hue Sing, Joseph Crugnale.

Commissioners Excused: Charlotte Seales, Elsie Santos.

Others Present: Jan Roberson, staff; Tara Sabado, inclusion specialist for Parks and Recreation; Agnes Groff, MEO Community Liaison; Ramoda Anand; Ellen Kamaka.

II. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 1:33 p.m.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** March 12, 2010

Commissioner Briley MOVED and Commissioner Hue Sing SECONDED the minutes be approved without correction. MOTION CARRIED.

IV. **PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** Ramoda Anand testified that he is concerned about the proposed budget cuts to MEO transportation. I am afraid they won't have money for me to use the bus. What can we do about this to remedy this situation? I am willing to mediate if anyone wants to help me with this.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Maui County Fair** – to be rescheduled as guest speaker had a conflict.

B. **Election of officers**

Commissioner Souza **NOMINATED** Andrew Valentine for a second term as Chair. Commissioner Briley **SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Souza **NOMINATED** Linda Liddell for VICE CHAIR. Commissioner Briley **SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

C. **Molokai Senior Fair** – the fair is scheduled for Friday, April 16, 2010 at Home Pumehana. Jan to request HHC permission to make copies and send to Commissioner Liddell.

D. **Develop testimony on Disaster Action Plan for disabled.** Commission Chair Valentine reported that the Mayor will proclaim April as Tsunami Awareness Month. The Commission on Persons with Disabilities and Maui Wheelers will be contacted for input. County Council Member Bill Medeiros will request disability

issues be reviewed by the County Council so that hearings will be scheduled. No testimony was developed.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **Reading and discussion of letter from former Commissioner Marguerite Rowland.** Commissioners will send a letter to Mayor via HHC requesting a copy of the Mayor's response to the above letter. Chair Valentine and Commissioner Hue Sing to draft letter and send to Jan for Mayor via Director Tsuhako. Commissioner Hue Sing will compose a letter of thanks to former Commissioner Rowland.
- B. **Commission Duties** – Chair Valentine reported that the responsibilities of the Commission have not been made clear to the commissioners. "How do we do what the website says we are to do? Who will explain what's already there?" Chair Valentine will contact Corporation Counsel Brian Moto to ask directly how to obtain the correct information on Commission duties, rather than send a letter through department channels.
- C. **Awareness Fair** – Commission Chair Valentine said a major function of the commission is to dispense information to disabled people. Commissioner Hue Sing **MOVED**, Commissioner Souza **SECONDED** for the Commission to hold an awareness fair on a weekend between primary and general elections at the Maui Mall with a local celebrity like Kathy Collins from Manao Radio or Frank DeLima. Chair Valentine to send a draft letter to DHHC Staff Jan Roberson requesting assistance in planning an awareness fair.

VII. REPORTS

A. Americans with Disabilities – DJ Schwind

Chair Valentine and Members of the Commission:

Due to other commitments, I will not be able to attend this afternoons meeting. The following is a brief status report.

In a follow up meeting with the Department of Corporation Counsel, Director of Public Works and the Civil Defense Director, the ADA Coordinator and 1st Assistant to the Managing Director reviewed the latest (draft) Status Report regarding Project Civic Access. It was good to get all departments involved in complying with the PCA agreement to be on the same page at the same time. Recommended changes will be incorporated into the revised report, and it should be ready for transmittal later this month.

The re-paving project for Vineyard Street behind One Main Plaza included,(for pedestrian safety purposes) the re-location of the crosswalk from the eastside of the High Street Vineyard Street intersection to the west side. Unfortunately, this relocation resulted in the removal of the parking stall that we were look at converting to a Van Accessible Stall. It seems that the DOT feels that a vehicle parked in that stall, would/could inhibit the view

(limited sight distance) of someone entering the crosswalk from the One Main Plaza side of the crosswalk. Not too sure of what can be done at this time.

2010 Legislature Update:

HB 1859 - Would have amended the motor vehicle registration fee by up to \$1 with the monies designated for the parking program for persons with disabilities is dead.

House Bill 2152/Senate Bill 2267 - This bill authorizes the charging of a service/filing fee for DCAB document reviews (limited to state and county projects) as required under Hawaii Revised Statutes §103-50 is still alive.

Senate Bill 2105 - This bill will establish DCAB as the issuing agency for the parking placards, allow DCAB to issue placards by mail, and permit DCAB to enter into agreements with the Counties to continue to issue the placards on behalf of the State is still alive.

B. Aging Disabilities Resource Center – James Mariano

1. The next monthly ADRC meeting is scheduled for Wed, April 28 at Hale Elima Community Hall, Kahului from 1-3 PM.
- 2) We are continuing with cross training presentations: (tentatively scheduled) Aging With Aloha, Quality Behavior Outcomes, State Developmental Disabilities Council, and County of Maui - Parks & Recreation, Inclusion Program.
- 3) More calendar events listed on *Aging and Disability Resource Center website: www.hawaiiadrc.org

C. HI Centers for Independent Living - None

D. Parks and Recreation – Copies circulated at meeting.

E. Molokai – Linda Liddell. Disaster response errors during recent tsunami evacuation were miscommunications due to shift changes at Maui Police Station.

F. Council Developmental Disabilities - Mary Matsukawa

1) We had a successful Day at the Capitol on March 18, 2010. Twelve people attended from Maui - a total of 45 from the Neighbor Islands and over 300 statewide attended. We were able to meet with Senators Baker and Tsutsui. We also met with representative Bertram and attended the opening session of the House.

2) ATTENTION ALL MEO TRANSPORTATION RIDERS AND SUPPORTERS
The Mayor's proposed budget as it relates to MEO Transportation was presented at the Budget and Finance Committee of the Maui County Council on March 23, 2010 by the

Department of Transportation.

As seen below, there are drastic funding cuts proposed in transportation services for seniors and persons with a disability. In addition, they recommended charging a fare of \$1 per boarding on all County funded MEO transportation services.

Please help in letting the Council know that these cuts could severely affect you. Cuts to transportation for persons with a disability, Kaunoha and other senior services could have a detrimental affect on quality of life, independence and mobility.

The fare charge will impact all of our riders. Many children ride our Youth Trans program to the county funded youth centers and other activities every day. This would mean a parent would have to pay \$10 per week or about \$40 per month per child. Imagine a family with three children, that would be \$120 a month! For our seniors or persons with a disability, this may mean fewer trips to the doctors, shopping or other errands. They might try to combine trips to save money but struggle with large bags or not receiving the proper medical care.

Mayor's budget proposed cuts:

1. Cut all of MEO Ala Hou trans for persons with disabilities except Upcountry & Molokai
2. Cut the following Senior Transportation Services:
 - a. Paia/Haiku cut from 3x to 1x/week
 - b. Upcountry cut from 4x to 1x/week
 - c. Kihei cut from 3x to 1x/week
 - d. Central cut from 7x to 4x/week
 - e. PM and Eve cut from 4x to 2x/week
 - f. PaceSetters cut from 8x to 4x/month
 - g. Senior Fair Maui cut completely
 - h. Senior Club Excursions cut completely
 - i. Lanai Club Excursions cut from 3x to 2x/year
 - j. Senior Aloha Party cut completely
 - k. Kaunoha Excursions cut from 271 to 204/year
3. Charge a fare of \$1 per boarding on all MEO services funded by the county.

G. Transportation – Andrew Valentine – MEO Representative Agnes Groff spoke to Commissioners off the agenda.

VIII. AGENDA SETTING

- A. Commission Duties
- B. Calendar
- C. Invite ADA Paratransit staff Darrin Kono as a speaker.
- D. Invite Planner Erin Wade to speak about Makawao renovation plans
- E. Bus passes for disabled riders
- F. Marguerite Rowland mahalo letter
- G. Reschedule Sherri Grimes of Maui County Fair

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next meeting 1:30 p.m., Friday, May 14, Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room, 11 Mahaolu Street, Kahului, HI

X. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

MAUI NEWS ARTICLE April 6, 2010: Plan would cut funding to two bus programs

By CHRIS HAMILTON, Staff Writer

WAILUKU - In a move to cut costs at a time of a projected \$56 million budget shortfall, Mayor Charmaine Tavares has proposed slashing, but not eliminating, funds to two bus programs that serve Maui's elderly and disabled.

The mayor's budget proposal also has a provision to have Maui Economic Opportunity Inc. customers pay \$1 per trip for the service provided by the agency under a contract with the county.

According to the Maui County Department of Transportation, 261,794 rides were provided on MEO's buses last year.

In addition, the Maui Bus may charge disabled riders who need help with lifts and other equipment assistance \$2 per fare. The county estimated that the fare increases would generate an additional \$325,000 a year.

However, mass transit is a heavily subsidized service. For instance, the mayor said county officials have figured that it actually costs the county \$4 every time someone takes the bus. And right now, fares cost no more than \$1.

MEO's allocation of more than \$5.7 million would shrink by about \$740,000 in Tavares' budget plan. The mayor's budget includes numerous and wide-ranging cuts in other areas, from furloughs to dozens of nonprofit grant reductions.

MEO Executive Director Sandy Baz said he understands the need to make cuts.

But the administration should have at least agreed to meet with MEO officials before going ahead with the budget proposal, he said.

"MEO (transit) has always had budget increases. They've never faced cuts before," said county Transportation Department Director Don Medeiros. "This is a budget process, and it's not easy."

The proposed MEO transit cuts include an 80 percent reduction, or \$340,000, to its Ala Hou Program for people with disabilities, according to county documents.

But Medeiros justified the Ala Hou cuts. He noted that the county's mass transit Maui Bus program is required by federal law to provide paratransit equipment, such as ramps and automated lifts, for the disabled.

Instead of using Ala Hou, the Transportation Department has found that disabled residents are increasingly using the Maui Bus instead because it offers more routes, more frequently.

Medeiros also proposed cutting \$400,000 from the \$751,514 Kaunoa Leisure Program. The program gives popular tours to places such as farms or to see Christmas lights.

However, Kaunoa Leisure's 15,757 trips last year fell 20 percent below MEO's projected use for 2009, according to MEO figures.

Medeiros said that's not because people aren't taking the trips. They just aren't using MEO to get to the launch point at a senior center, opting to use Maui Bus or car pools instead, he said.

"We are trying to be as fair as possible," Medeiros said. "We didn't like to do this, but what are we gonna do?"

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