

COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MEETING MINUTES

1:30-3:30 p.m., Thursday, November 17, 2011

Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room
11 Mahaolu Street, Kahului, HI 96732

I. QUORUM (from sign in sheet)

Commissioners Present: Karen Hue Sing, Cesar Gaxiola, Yolanda Mau, Mikey Tomita, Charlotte Smith

Commissioners Excused: Linda Liddell

Commissioners Absent: Paulo Sabado

Staff & Administration Present:

Deputy Corporation Counsel Gary Murai, ADA Coordinator DJ Schwind, DOT Director JoAnne Johnson Winer, DHHC Staff Jan Roberson, Parks Planner April Shiotani, Civil Defense Coordinator Anna Foust, Civil Defense Specialist Charnan Carroll

Guests Present:

Nani Watanabe, Kevin Souza, Mary Matsukawa, Janelle Curnan, Kate Eifler, Tiffany James

II. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Corporation Counsel Gary Murai called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. in the absence of Vice Chair Liddell. He suggested that the commissioners appoint Commissioner Karen Hue Sing to serve as Chair Pro-Tem. Commissioner Tomita so MOVED. Commissioner Anand SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Deputy Corporation Counsel Murai suggested that the Commissioners suspend the agenda to conduct the election out of order. Anand so MOVED. Commissioner Mau SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

After explaining the various nomination and election procedures, Chair Pro Tem Hue Sing opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner Smith nominated Karen Hue Sing to serve as chair. No other nominations were received. Commissioner Mau MOVED to CLOSE the nomination process. Commissioner Tomita SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED. The vote was signified by all saying AYE. New Chair Hue Sing was congratulated. Chair Hue Sing thanked her fellow commissioners and said she would do her best.

III. WELCOME INCOMING COMMISSIONER PAULO SABADO

As Commissioner Sabado was not present, Chair Hue Sing moved to the next order of business.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 8, 2011

Two changes were requested: Add Mary Matsukawa to guests present and change Harry Johnson to representing Roberts Hawaii rather than MEO. Commissioner Smith MOVED to approve the minutes as corrected. Commissioner Smith SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Staff Roberson requested that each person present sign the sign in sheet to verify their attendance at the meetings.

V. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

- I. No testimony was received

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Staff read letter of resignation from Commissioner Feliciano Sales.

VII. REPORTS

ADA Coordinator - DJ Schwind

a. Improvements to county facilities

- i. Kahului Fire Station - Modified restroom
- ii. Lahaina Police Department - Moved accessible parking stall closer to entrance and made curb cuts
- iii. Kahului Police Department - Modified restrooms
- iv. Wailuku Police Department
 - Combined two restrooms into a unisex accessible restroom in booking area.
 - Lowered public pay phone
 - Added intercom outside in lieu of accessible ramp
 - Kepaniwai Park
 - a. Began making accessibility improvements with parking stalls, striping
- v. Swimming Pools
 - ADA Guidelines require each public pool be retrofitted with a hoist lift that can be operated by one pool user. DCAB will coordinate training with county parks department.
- vi. Commissioner Tomita requested that fire stations be fitted with more flashing lights so that they can be seen by those in a crosswalk who are walking away from the fire station.
- vii. Commissioner Anand asked about updates to Makawao accessibility.
- viii. Commissioner Tomita stated pedestrian access in Lahaina was inadequate, congested and not wide enough for wheel chairs.
- ix. Commissioner Chair Hue Sing stated each Commissioner should make notes on accessibility issues when out in the community and request these as commission agenda items.

b. County Department of Transportation

County DOT Director JoAnne Johnson Winer reported:

- County purchased 10 ADA accessible buses and three 8-10 passenger ADA accessible vans
- Each of the vans can accommodate two wheel chairs at a time.
- DOT is working with MEO to improve transportation to dialysis and day health programs
- Previously suspended MEO services are restored to Wailuku Heights, Waihee, Upcountry, and Lahaina
- New vehicles mentioned above are scheduled to arrive in March 2012 and should alleviate some of the shortfall in paratransit.
- Requested public notify DOT of difficulties getting services as they will try to accommodate

- \$1.78 million FTA funds allowed county to order additional vehicles and the county's 20% match was \$445,000.
- Uncertain what vehicles will be ordered at this time.
- A 41 seat bus was rear ended in Lahaina and will be down for 8 months during repairs. As a result there is overcrowding on cruise ship days. Hope the feds & state will help get larger vehicles to alleviate that issue.
- County did not receive an \$880,000 grant request for bus shelters - only for bus replacement.
- DOT and MEO received \$238,000 in additional **One Click One Call** program funds for veterans and others to place a call, then be automatically routed to the proper transportation provider or referred by an operator.
- Commissioner Anand asked about Molokai air travel. Director Johnson Winer stated that was a matter for State DOT, Federal Aviation Administration and private carriers. The county only provides air ambulance services in cooperation with the state.
- On Molokai and Lanai, MEO is still servicing human services clients for dialysis. Better handicap access to the Lanai hospital is needed: the path needs to be wider to accommodate wheel chairs.
- Commissioner Tomita asked if the county is planning for light rail. Director explained rights of way corridors are being considered in future developments, but she expects the private sector will need to step up due to funding issues to implement light rail.
- Commissioner Tomita asked to be included in rail discussions. Director Johnson Winer stated she would include the commission in the planning process.

c. Disabilities Communication Access Board – No report

d. Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

- Neighbor Island Director Nani Watanabe reported that the agency
- Reopened September 19, 2011 after furlough & reorganization.
 - The new director Kimo Keawe focus is working on the new HCIL program and services. He works from the Oahu office.
 - New grant writer Ku`ulei Manupau lives on Maui and is getting to know Maui community and services.
 - A new Independent Living Specialist Tania Joao on Molokai is working from Home Pumehana Senior Housing, 553-3340.
 - HCIL has received donations from community and families of grabbers, walkers, commodes.
 - HCIL is looking for volunteers
 - Maui Wheelers support group meets twice monthly and is hoping to expand to Lanai and Molokai.
 - Maui Lions Club has involved the Maui Deaf Club to sell concessions at races and other projects.
 - HCIL wish list includes bigger office space, office furniture.

- e. Parks and Recreation Inclusion
 - i. Adaptive kayaking program ends with final session 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Olowalu. All equipment is provided.
- f. Parks and Recreation Planning – April Shiotani
 - i. See attached spreadsheet of parks improvements.
 - ii. Some work has begun at Helene Hall / Hana Community Complex.
 - iii. Commissioner Anand asked the cost of improvements to Kepaniwai Park. Ms. Shiotani said she would check on the amount as well as whether that info is available on the county website.
 - iv. Commissioner Tomita asked if the county was responsible for blue emergency call boxes. Ms. Shiotani said she would check. Chair Hue Sing noted that parks are equipped with pay phones that do not charge for emergency calls.
 - v. Kepaniwai Park accessibility – covered earlier under ADA Coordinator report.
- g. State Developmental Disability Council
 - i. Mary Matsukawa reported:
 - ii. The Salvation Army set its 11th Annual Homeless Health Fair on November 18, 2011 at its center in Kahului
 - iii. 16th Annual Disabilities Legislative Forum on October 20, 2011 was attended by 200 including 8 lawmakers. Seventeen people were registered to vote.
 - iv. High School Transition event is set February 8, 2012 with a resource fair and training.
 - v. New DCAB rules posted to its website provide for ASL to receive continuing education classes so they need not reapply for license. The new rules define when two interpreters are required.
 - vi. Since October 2010, parking placard renewals are done by DCAB via US mail. 3,325 were renewed via mail between July 1-September 30. DCAB received 3,094 expired and invalid placards during that period and 228 placards back from the estates of deceased people.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. May 24, 2011 letter sent to Mayor Arakawa requesting a volunteer transportation advisory group.
 - i. DOT Director Johnson Winer to explained that the administration decided on a different option, which was to place camera equipment in each bus so that video tapes could be reviewed and appropriate action determined after complaints were received.
 - ii. Staff reported that the response letter from the administration explained that the Cost of Government Commission had recommended to eliminate some and combine other commissions, including combining the Council on Aging with the Commission on Persons with Disabilities.
 - iii. Mr. Murai clarified that it would be up to the administration whether to act on this recommendation which may require amending the county charter by county council vote.

- b. August 3, 2011 letter to Mayor Arakawa regarding accessibility of Makawao sidewalks.
 - i. Staff read portions of the letter of reply dated October 11, 2011 from Managing Director Keith Regan. The letter mirrored the 11/9/10 reply to then private citizen Ramoda Anand from then Public Works Director Milton Arakawa stating that the issues were complex and would be addressed after considering the concerns of the entire community.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resignation of Feliciano Sales
 - i. Addressed above
- b. Election of Chair
 - i. Addressed above
- c. Review Emergency Preparedness Document Annex N
 - i. Civil Defense Coordinator Anna Foust reported that Annex N was written by a consultant from a template. Agencies specified in the document as having roles and responsibilities had not seen it and no Civil Defense staff had provided input.
 - ii. Ms. Foust advised the commissioners to review portions pertaining to the commission's roles and responsibilities then report findings and recommendations to her department. She asked commissioners to review other areas and make appropriate recommendations as well.
 - iii. Someone from the commission will be part of the working group to represent the commission's interest.
 - iv. Commissioner Tomita stated that the subcommittee needs two one hour sessions with an interpreter to complete its work.
 - v. Ms. Foust offered the Civil Defense Conference Room
 - vi. Chair Hue Sing asked the group to take advantage of Ms. Foust's expertise since she was present at this time.
 - vii. Ms. Foust advised the sub committee to focus on Section H of Annex N, specifically whether it is appropriate for the commission to assist the DOT and MCOA in phone screening and to assist the hearing impaired during a disaster.
 - viii. Ms. Foust stated the county advises everyone to be personally prepared for a tsunami or hurricane. The county can have evacuation plans, but the advance notice for hurricane and tsunami can differ widely. The county cannot guarantee that each person will be evacuated due to variables including road closures, and availability of vehicles and drivers.
 - ix. Mr. Schwind stated Annex N specifies that people with special needs be registered and a radio system be developed. These are things the county does not have the resources to provide. He advised people to be prepared to shelter in place, rely on family, friends and neighbors. He said the key is notification and that is not being done now.

- d. ADA in Building Code
 - i. Commission reviewed draft letter
 - ii. Commissioner Anand stated he would not amend the draft letter to include more information as outlined in Jean Tessmer's letter.
 - iii. Staff will place the draft letter on letter head and work with Chair Hue Sing to modify before signing.
 - iv. Deputy Corporation Counsel Murai stated that the chair could amend it as it was going out under her signature.
- e. Transportation subcommittee - this matter was addressed above
- f. One Click One Call for Transportation - This matter was addressed above
- g. Video Taping Commission meeting & providing closed captions
 - i. Commissioner Anand reported AKAKU does not have resources to tape all the board and commission meetings or provide captioning.
 - ii. Commissioner Tomita MOVED that the commission request the county to provide funds to video tape board/commission meetings and provide closed captioning. Commissioner Smith SECONDED.
 - iii. A discussion followed
 - Mr. Schwind advised the commission consider all issues.
 - Mr. Murai stated that ADA requires all meetings be accessible and with reasonable notice accommodations be made.
 - ADA is unclear about whether accommodations must be provided in real time, or can be video taped with transcriptions of the proceedings, or broadcast later. Mr. Murai recommended fact finding before sending a letter that does not convey the commission's intent.
 - Commissioner Tomita MOVED to withdraw his motion. Commissioner Smith withdrew her SECOND. MOTION CARRIED to table the issue.

V. AGENDA SETTING

- a. Executive on Aging Deborah Arendale Report
- b. Overview of Commission duties and responsibilities
- c. Strategic Planning Session
- d. Video taping commission meetings and providing closed captioning
- e. Letter to mayor asking inspectors be required to inspect buildings before they get certificate of occupancy.
- f. Fire stations be fitted with more flashing lights so that they can be seen by those in a crosswalk who are walking away from the fire station
- g. Pedestrian access in Lahaina is inadequate, congested and not wide enough for wheel chairs.
- h. Cost of Government Commission's recommendation to combine the Council on Aging with the Commission on Persons with Disabilities.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next meeting is set for 1:30 p.m., Thursday, December 8, 2011 at Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room at 11 Mahaolu St., Kahului.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Chair Hue Sing adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.