



MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

12:30-2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 13, 2014

Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Hall

11 Mahaolu Street, Kahului, HI 96732

MEETING MINUTES

I. QUORUM, ROLL CALL, WELCOME

a. Commissioners Present

- i. Cesar Gaxiola, Kealoha Laemoa, Charlotte Smith, Kevin Souza, Mikey Tomita, Andrew Valentine,

b. Commissioners Excused

- i. Paulo Sabado

c. Commissioners Absent

- i. Joseph Felipe

d. Staff Present

- i. Linden Joesting, Jan Roberson

e. Guests Present

- i. Kate Eifler, Harry Johnson, Vivian Lindsey, Linda Dorsett, Chris Dack

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 19, 2013 meeting.

- a. Commissioner Valentine MOVED to approve the minutes without correction. Commissioner Laemoa SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. December 23, 2013 letter to Mayor requesting all systems monthly pass for riders with disabilities.
 - i. Mayor has not responded to the letter. Staff Roberson will check with Mayor's staff regarding when commission can expect a response.

- b. Discussion and action regarding MEO reservation system for para transit:
 - i. Commissioner Valentine commented that the reservation system needs more consistency.
 - ii. Commissioner Valentine said commission is supposed to advise the county on such matters.
 - iii. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON THIS AGENDA ITEM
 - 1. Vivian Lindsey – MEO reservation system a lot of places need improvement. The riders are told they may have to wait for a half an hour wait for a pick up, and during that time, other people are being picked up, so they pick you up and drop you off late. It depends on how you make your reservation that determines whether you get dropped off on time. Some riders are forgotten, are told driver will arrive in 10 minutes, then nobody shows up. Don't promise me something - that has happened many times and I find that more so with the wheel chair clients. Being on the bus for one hour is hard for people – they may need to use the restroom.
 - 2. Commissioner Valentine said Easter Seals has good printed information on ADA paratransit.
 - 3. Commissioner Tomita said Kihei resident Elaine Ota told him the wheel chair vans won't take two people in wheel chairs.
 - 4. Commissioner Valentine aid that does happen. Sometimes rides are not compatible depending on the wheel chair types and the vans.

5. Commissioner Tomita: Don't they hold up to 4 wheel chairs?
 6. Commissioner Valentine: Yes for the most part but it depends on the configuration. It would be good if we could get at least two wheel chairs on each bus.
 7. Harry Johnson, MEO Transportation Director: The software is being updated to address the issues.
 8. Commissioner Valentine: The commission should understand the law and regulation as well as the programs so it can better advocate for needed changes.
- c. Discussion to determine appropriate questions to ask of county grant-making officials.
- i. Commissioner Tomita: The director of grants told me he is not responsible. They are there to accept and grant or deny. We have to ask those who apply for the grants to use the funds to improve towns themselves.
 - ii. Commissioner Valentine: encourage applicants to visit the ADA website to use the information to structure their programs. The commission can improve community awareness to help the applicants write a better grant.
 - iii. Commissioner Tomita: We need to talk to the small town meetings to advise them.
 - iv. Commissioner Laemoa: On Molokai when non-profits apply for grants they community works with them to make sure the communities are more accessible. It's fine to go after the grant writer, but are we going to say YOU do this, or are we going to educate them?
 - v. Commissioner Valentine: We are to educate the public – it's in our mission statement. If we don't educate the community they won't know.

- vi. Commissioner Tomita: Can I propose that we ask “Small Business” to explain and try and teach them and take them on an accessible pathway to fulfill their grants both on Molokai and here? I don’t know who that is.
- vii. Commission Chair Gaxiola: I don’t know too.
- viii. Commissioner Smith: There is a Small Business Development Center in Kihei in Technology Park run out of UH Hilo.
- ix. Commissioner Gaxiola: So that’s the Feds?
- x. Commissioner Laeoa: There is a small business administration on Molokai.
- xi. Commissioner Tomita: Isn’t there a Small Town Business Administration in each area?
- xii. Commissioner Tomita: Let’s talk about this at the next meeting.
- xiii. Commission Chair Gaxiola: Sure we can do that.

IV. AGENDA SETTING

- a. Revised procedure to add agenda items:
 - i. Deputy Corporation Counsel Joesting: do not email amongst each other.
 - ii. Send agenda items to administrative support staff, in this case Jan.
 - iii. Jan will present the list to the chair for approval.
- b. Invite county official to March 13, 2014 meeting to discuss requirements for grantees of county grant funding to adhere to ADA accessibility guidelines for their programs.
- c. Commissioner Laemoa: Invite a representative from Canines for Independence to give a presentation.
- d. Add Transportation as a regular agenda item.
- e. Invite Maui Dog Tags, an organization that trains service animals for veterans.
- f. Invite Grants Management Division representative to come to a meeting to inform commissioners about grants making process.

- g. Eko Lane – paratransit software PowerPoint presentation by MEO.
- h. Subcommittee on disaster preparedness.
 - i. Director will authorize an interpreter for one hour before or after the meetings.
 - ii. Members are Commissioners Valentine, Tomita, and Sabado.
 - iii. The subcommittee will be looking at Department of Justice requirements, Project Civic Access, and providing transportation to shelter when an evacuation is called.
 - iv. Deputy Corporation Counsel Joesting: as a Permitted Interaction Group don't have file notices of meetings under Sunshine Law. But when you do meet, there are limits. You can present a report to the commission, but the commission cannot discuss the report until a subsequent next meeting.
- i. New commissioner appointments.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Commissioner Laemoa 24 vendors have signed up for the 4th Annual Senior and Disability Fair on April 24 on Molokai. We are partnering with the Office on Aging. We need interpreters. Kate Eifler said she would like to go and take the ferry.
- b. Next meeting is set for 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., March 13, 2014, Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Hall, 11 Mahaolu Street, Kahului, HI 96732.
- c. MEO will convene a meeting to hear community concerns on transportation from 1 to 3 p.m., Tuesday, February 25 at the MEO Family Center.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Commission Chair Gaxiola adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.