



MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2015, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room
11 Mahaolu St., Kahului, HI 96732

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Laemoa called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. in Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room located at 11 Mahaolu Street, Kahului, Hawaii.

Commissioners present included: Kevin Souza, Mikey Tomita, Vivian Lindsey, Gabriel Johnson, Andrew Valentine and Sheila "Mililani" Villanueva.

Commissioner Faraz Azizsoltani was excused.

Staff present included Linden Joesting, Deputy Corporation Counsel and Nalani Podlewski, Secretary.

Guest present included Denise Green (sign interpreter).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 12, 2015

Chair Laemoa asked if any revisions to minutes were needed. None offered.

Commissioner Valentine introduced a MOTION to approve minutes. SECONDED by Commissioner Souza. Chair Laemoa opened discussion, none offered. Chair Laemoa called for the vote, all in favor, no opposition, MOTION CARRIED.

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS AS THEY PERTAIN TO ISSUES AFFECTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

None

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion on Paratransit Transportation ridership, reservations and process:

Commissioner Valentine reported that the Paratransit Advisory Committee met on Tuesday. He indicated that MEO will provide more statistics on no-shows and reservation problems and will be planning a public forum.

- b. Public Works input re curb cuts and lack of sidewalks fronting the Kahului Fire Stations:

No representative present. Ms. Joesting reported that she emailed Public Works and their response was that the notice was too short. Chair Laemoa postponed item.

- c. Lack of access fronting Lanai Post Office:

Commissioner Johnson reported that two MEO buses are used to get to the post office which are too large and block the entrance. He shared that he spoke with Department of Transportation Director Johnson about the possibility of utilizing an old van thru MEO for this service.

- d. Emergency Communication: 911 system

Commissioner Tomita referred to letter dated March 17, 2015 from Police Chief Faamu that stated that training was held on March 12, 2015 on Molokai. He indicated that he was unaware of the status after that point. Ms. Podlewski reported that she spoke with Ms. Racadio of Maui Police Dispatch. Ms. Racadio indicated that Maui County is ready with text system but they are waiting on Honolulu; Police Department hopes to initiate by the end of the year. Commissioner Tomita questioned if Molokai and Lanai are included. Ms. Podlewski responded that Maui County includes services to Molokai and Lanai. Commissioner Tomita will follow up with MPD.

Commissioner Johnson shared that Lanai emergency calls are handled thru Molokai dispatch. He will follow up on this item.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Commissioner Chair's expectations for conduct

Chair Laemoa shared that she felt uncomfortable after February's meeting. She reminded the commissioners that it is the role of the commission to bring ideas forwards for improvement to services and advise the mayor; commissioners are not to go to the county to represent the commission. She suggested that commissioners review the roles and expectations of the commission. Chair Laemoa requested that the new commissioners be provided with a binder of reference materials.

[Darren Konno, Transportation Specialist arrived at 12:47 pm]

Commissioner Valentine suggested that commission review responsibilities annually. Chair Laemoa responded that an in-house training will be scheduled for May.

b. Sub-Committee Report on Emergency Preparedness: Shelters:

Commissioner Valentine reported that he has been in contact with Charnan of Civil Defense and she will be setting up meetings with agencies to work on protocol and review FEMA guidelines to prepare comparable guidelines for Maui. He suggested that Commissioner Villanueva assist the sub-committee. Ms. Joesting reminded commissioners that any changes to sub-committee needs to be acted upon by the commission due to the Sunshine Law. Chair Laemoa recommended this item be added to next month's agenda for action.

[Harry Johnson, MEO arrived at 12:55 pm]

c. Lack of disabled or handicapped access at Papalaua Beach Park, West Maui:

Commissioner Tomita reported that he did not submit photos to staff. He may retake photos due to rainy conditions. He will contact Parks staff Tara Sabado to discuss. Chair Laemoa recommended discussion continue next month.

d. Lack of sidewalks in Lahaina: Deferred.

e. Parks Department ADA Improvements Update

Chair Laemoa acknowledged that there was no one from Parks Department present at the meeting. Moved to next agenda item.

(Copy of County of Maui Parks Department Projects Accessibility Improvement Update, August 1, 2014 distributed to Commissioners)

f. Lack of ramp access to dog park at Keopuolani Park:

Commissioner Valentine shared that this agenda item is in response to photographs provided by Victor Lesa. Chair Laemoa recommended that a letter be sent with photos to Parks Department asking for an explanation of the conditions. MOTION provided to Chair's recommendation by Commissioner Valentine. SECONDED by Commissioner Johnson. Chair Laemoa opened floor for discussion. Commissioner Tomita questioned concern about street issue. Chair Laemoa responded that it is probably a separate issue based upon the ownership of the street. Chair Laemoa requested commissioners' assistance in drafting the letter. Commissioner Villanueva volunteered to draft the letter.

(Copy of photos provided by Victor Lesa received on March 18, 2015 distributed to Commissioners)

VI. AGENDA SETTING - Topics suggested:

a. Commissioner Tomita shared that members of the deaf community have requested that he speak with commission about providing a copy of emergency sign language pamphlet

to Police, Fire and EMT staff that show basic survival signs. He will bring a copy of the pamphlet next month.

Commissioner Valentine suggested that he contact Civil Defense to check if they may already have this information available because of their emergency preparedness planning.

Chair Laemoa requested clarification of the topic.

Commissioner Tomita responded that he will check with Civil Defense if the pamphlet is already available and will provide an update next month. Ms. Joesting added that if Civil Defense does not have it, Commissioner Tomita could also contact D.J. Schwind, ADA Coordinator in the Mayor's Office.

- b. Ms. Podlewski shared that election of officers for new term needs to be done next month. Commissioner Villanueva advised that she will be unable to attend next meeting and requested to be excused. Commissioner Valentine indicated that he may also be absent.
- c. Ms. Joesting recommended to Chair Laemoa to defer in-service training to June.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next meeting on May 14, 2015, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 pm at Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Chair Laemoa requested to adjourn meeting. MOTION introduced by Commissioner Valentine. SECONDED by Commissioner Souza. Chair Laemoa adjourned the meeting at 1:21 p.m.