



MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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MEETING MINUTES

**February 18, 2016, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Cameron Center, Conference Room 1
95 Mahalani St., Wailuku, HI 96793**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kealoha Laemoa called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in Cameron Center, Conference Room 1 at 95 Mahalani Street in Wailuku.

Commissioners present included Kevin Souza, Mikey Tomita, Vivian Lindsey, Faraz Azizsoltani, and Andrew Valentine.

Commissioner Sheila Villanueva was excused. Commissioners David Courson and Gabriel Johnson were absent.

Staff present included Deputy Corporation Counsel Jennifer Oana and Nalani Podlewski, Secretary.

County staff present included DJ Schwind, ADA Coordinator.

Guests present included Kate Eifler (sign interpreter), Harry Johnson (MEO Transportation) and Victor Lesa, Jr.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 14, 2016

Chair Laemoa asked if any revisions to minutes were needed.

Commissioner Azizsoltani introduced a MOTION to approve minutes. SECONDED by Commissioner Valentine. 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. Paratransit Transportation Reservations Process and Ridership:

Commissioner Lindsey reported that ridership has increased.

Commissioner Valentine added that the increase is because people are becoming more aware of the services and Department of Transportation (DOT) has processed more applications. He suggested that the DOT should be encouraged to do more information services announcements. Chair Laemoa suggested that DOT and MEO do public service announcements thru Akaku.

Commissioner Valentine reported that the Wheelers met with Councilmember Crivello and she will take the lead to set up a meeting with DOT Director Medeiros.

Chair Laemoa asked MEO Transportation Director Johnson if persons with disabilities outside of the fixed route can use the paratransit service. Mr. Johnson replied that riders must be qualified by the Department of Transportation then they can receive paratransit service typically $\frac{3}{4}$ mile along the fixed route service; and depending on disability, if they require assistance for home to curb, they can identify if they require a personal care assistant. He added that the current system is curb to curb however under reasonable accommodation it can be curb to door.

Commissioner Valentine shared that the County can expand the corridor beyond $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Chair Laemoa questioned if Commissioner Valentine was proposing a motion.

Ms. Oana provided clarification to Commissioner Valentine about his question that if the Commission is advisory to the Mayor. She advised that under Chapter 2.32 of the Maui County Code, the powers, duties and functions are listed; it says that the commission will assist the County. She has reviewed other commissions, some say advise the Mayor but this commission does not, therefore it is appropriate for the commission to write to the department and copy the Mayor.

Commissioner Valentine presented a MOTION to write a letter requesting that the Department of Transportation expand the access corridor for paratransit. SECONDED by Commissioner Lindsey. Chair Laemoa called for the vote, all in favor, no opposition. MOTION CARRIED.

b. American Sign Language (ASL) Pamphlets Update

Mr. Schwind reported that the pamphlets were distributed to Fire and Police Departments; additional pamphlets were ordered and given to Civil Defense. He will also provide some pamphlets to Parks Department for use by pool staff.

Commissioner Tomita stated that he is willing to volunteer to provide training with an interpreter.

c. Molokai Disability Resource Fair, September 22, 2016

Chair Laemoa reported that Kaunoha refused to partner with their fair and the event will now be held on Friday, September 23rd instead of the 22nd at Mitchell Pauole Center. She shared that she has not received kokua from Maui County and the committee does not want her to press the issue so the date was changed.

Commissioner Valentine asked if an endorsement from the Commission would assist her. Chair Laemoa responded she would ask the committee at their meeting tomorrow.

Chair Laemoa reported that during the week of the event, there will be workshops on job readiness, social security

benefits and a fashion show. Any suggestions for participants should can be directed to her.

d. Unemployment of Persons with Disabilities

Chair Laemoa deferred item until March meeting.

e. Closed Captioning for Videos Produced with County Funds

Commissioner Tomita prepared a draft letter to Mayor Arakawa which was distributed to the Commission. He requested any additions or changes.

Commissioner Valentine commented that the letter is fine but added that the issue came up years ago and he suggested Rod Antone, Public Information Office at Mayor's Office be contacted to follow up on the status.

Ms. Oana suggested a change to third paragraph - we request that you direct the appropriate departments and the Maui County Council to take action to address this issue.

Mr. Schwind added that the Office of Council Services should be noted first in the letter since they broadcast the majority of the meetings. He commented that it was recommended before that the Office of Council Services take the lead to address closed captioning.

Ms. Oana offered revised wording - in the past you have informed us that you will be directing the Office of Council Services to take action to address this issue, we again repeat our request to you and also request that you further direct any appropriate department to take action as well.

Chair Laemoa asked the Commissioners if they approved the letter with corrections included.

Commissioner Valentine presented a MOTION to approve the letter to Mayor Arakawa with corrections. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Lindsey. Chair Laemoa called for the vote; all in favor, no opposition. **MOTION CARRIED.**

f. Flashing Emergency Lights fronting Kahului Fire Station

Commissioner Tomita requested to defer item to March because he wants to take an interpreter to speak with the Fire Chief. Ms. Oana commented that she was not sure if the County would provide an interpreter and suggested that he could take anyone to assist him. Commissioner Valentine replied that perhaps they could ask the Mayor for discretionary funds for an interpreter.

Mr. Schwind suggested that before he meets with the Fire Chief perhaps they should identify the landowner because Dairy Road to Puunene is owned by A&B, then the lights may be an issue to discuss with A&B; if the flashing lights are the issue, is probably a County issue.

Commissioner Azizsoltani shared his concerns that the property has no ADA access and sidewalks are not visible.

Mr. Schwind asked for clarification on the issue. He commented that sidewalks are not an ADA issue and if it is a safety issue then Public Works could work into their painting schedule. Mr. Schwind reminded the Commission that Request for Service module is available on the County website. He also added that the County has no authority to enforce ADA on anyone but themselves.

Commissioner Azizsoltani repeated that the County has a problem with sidewalks and getting it accessible. He suggested that Public Works be invited to address the issue.

Chair Laemoa requested that the discussion get back to the agenda item on flashing lights and suggested a letter be sent to A&B.

Mr. Schwind commented that the building belongs to the County and the sidewalk and street belongs to A&B. He added that Commissioner Tomita first needs to identify if the flashing lights are an issue. Mr. Schwind asked Chair Laemoa if she would permit him to follow up on lights. Chair Laemoa

responded that it would be okay for Mr. Schwind to follow up. Commissioner Tomita added that it is not just Kahului but all of the fire stations that need lights. Mr. Schwind replied sure.

g. Lack of Sidewalks and Faded Crosswalks in Maui County

Chair Laemoa suggested that Commissioner Azizoltani write a letter to Public Works to invite a representative to address the issues.

Commissioner Azizoltani presented a MOTION to write a letter to Public Works about the lack of sidewalks and maintenance on Maui. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Valentine. Chair Laemoa called for the vote; all in favor, no opposition.

[Note: Commissioner Lindsey was not present in the room for the vote, quorum was still maintained]

h. Upcoming Events

None reported.

V. NEW BUSINESS

None

[Commissioner Johnson arrived at 1:56 p.m.]

Chair Laemoa acknowledged the arrival of Commissioner Johnson and requested to address IV. OLD BUSINESS, d. Unemployment of Persons with Disabilities. No objections.

Commissioner Johnson reported that he contacted the Department of Personnel Services and posed two questions: 1) Do we have statistics on persons with disabilities employed by the County of Maui? 2) Does the County of Maui have special programs that target persons with disabilities through training and outreach? He added that he has not received a response to date.

Mr. Schwind shared that the State Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has programs available.

[Commissioner Lindsey left room at 2:02 p.m.]

Mr. Schwind asked Chair Laemoa if her request for the fair got to the proper level. Chair Laemoa advised that she will speak to her committee about an endorsement from this Commission tomorrow.

[Commissioner Lindsey returned to room at 2:02 p.m.]

VI. AGENDA SETTING

No new items submitted for consideration.

VII. NEXT MEETING

March 10, 2016, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Cameron Center, Conference Room 1.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Valentine presented a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. SECONDED by Commissioner Lindsey. Chair Laemoa called for the vote, all in favor, no objection. MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.