



MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2016, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 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 12:30 p.m. in Cameron Center, Conference Room 1 at 95 Mahalani Street in Wailuku.

Commissioners present included Cranston Kapoi, Kevin Souza, Gabriel Johnson, and Mikey Tomita.

Commissioners David Courson, Vivian Lindsey and Sheila Villanueva were excused.

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

Guests present included Kate Eifler (sign interpreter) and Victor Lesa.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 10, 2016

Chair Laemoa asked if any revisions to minutes were needed.

Commissioner Souza introduced a MOTION to approve minutes. SECONDED by Commissioner Johnson. 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

Victor Lesa introduced himself and reiterated the transportation issue that he brought up at the last meeting where riders are being dropped off at the bottom of a steep incline and need to be pushed up a ramp by their escort. He stated that MEO vans are being used but the DOT also has its hands in the process. He explained that DOT's position is that it is only curb to curb service and are not using the vans to escort riders to the top of the incline.

Commissioner Tomita asked for explanation as to where this occurs. Responses from Chair Laemoa and Commissioner Souza identified the property as Puuone Tower on Lower Main Street.

Mr. Lesa shared that they should try to get hold of the property manager to remove the overhead chain so that wheelchair drop off could take place at the top of the incline.

Chair Laemoa questioned if the property was owned by County or a private owner. Mr. Lesa replied that it is a private facility but they (MEO) is dropping riders off at the county road, adding that the service could be curb to door.

Chair Laemoa advised the item will be placed on the agenda for next month. Ms. Oana suggested that DOT be present. Mr. Lesa added that the issue has been brought up to DOT and they are sticking to curb to curb service. Chair Laemoa suggested that a letter be drafted to DOT to come to the meeting to discuss the concerns. Commissioner Tomita questioned why they are writing to DOT. Chair Laemoa replied that a resident has a concern that the buses are not accessible to Tokyo Tei and the businesses that are located there. She added that Mr. Lesa should do research to identify the property owner.

Chair Laemoa closed public testimony.

Chair Laemoa welcomed Commissioner Cranston Kapoi as a new member to the Commission. Commissioner Kapoi introduced himself and shared that he resides in the Waiehu district. He added that he is trying to retire as a remodeling contractor and has done a lot of remodeling projects for disabled persons.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

a. Paratransit Transportation Reservations Process and Ridership

Deferred.

b. Unemployment of Persons with Disabilities

Commissioner Johnson apologized as he was unable to attend the last meeting because the ferry was cancelled. He reported that he did research on other counties, large businesses and corporations who fall under ADA rules; many have universal best practices that welcome persons with ADA situations. He indicated that these employers use best practices to be proactive. He shared that he watched a 5-minute video training that did not have captions, so it excludes certain persons. He added that there are a lot of points that County of Maui could do better as there is no formal best practice guide, rules or basic format. He suggested that they come up with a list of best practices to provide to Human Resources Department.

Ms. Oana suggested that the Commission do a laundry list and have a discussion because this is a good idea to pursue. Chair Laemoa requested that Commissioner Johnson prepare a list of ideas for discussion at the next meeting to move this forward. Commissioner Kapoi offered to assist Commissioner Johnson.

Ms. Oana reminded the Commissioners of the Sunshine Law and offered to provide a refresher training. She advised that no communication between Commissioners outside of scheduled meetings should occur with the exception that two Commissioners may discuss items that will help them do their duties.

c. Flashing Emergency Lights fronting Kahului Fire Station

Commissioner Tomita reported that he has not done enough to prepare. He asked if Director Goode could be invited to discuss and include light and sidewalks into the letter.

[Darren Konno, DOT Transportation Specialist arrived at 12:55 p.m.]

Chair Laemoa shared that she watched a Public Works meeting with the County Council and heard that they are budgeting for flashing lights for school. She advised that they can ask them to add monies to include this.

Commissioner Tomita shared an example of the fire station in Kahului where people are driving really quickly. He added there is a light but it is too high for people to notice it; he commented that the pedestrian lights in Kihei are lower, at a height that is visible. He further shared that at Wailuku, he looked for a yellow light but not see one in the walkway in front of the fire station.

Commissioner Johnson asked how many times the fire station needs to be discussed as it seems like this is going in a circle. Chair Laemoa replied that previous discussions were regarding the sidewalk. She commented that additional information needs to be included in the letter and would like to also request a response to confirm attendance.

Ms. Oana recommended that the Commission speak to the department which is responsible, likely Public Works. She added that in October, departments prepare internal budget proposals for the next year; she suggested that if the Commission has any budget recommendations, they should discuss it in the fall.

Commissioner Tomita requested that they follow up on other letters that were prepared in the past. Commissioner Johnson agreed. He asked Ms. Podlewski if the minutes are on file. She advised that the minutes are available on the County website. He questioned if letters are attached to the minutes. Ms. Podlewski responded that letters are not included in the

minutes. Commissioner Johnson stated that they need to find a way to located all of their old letters.

Chair Laemoa requested that they approve the draft letter today and assigned Commissioner Tomita to follow up on it. Commissioner Tomita asked if the letter could be copied to Akaku. Ms. Oana replied that the Commission is advisory to the County and any letter to a private entity needs to come from a department head requesting action. Commissioner Tomita asked the letter could be copied to the Mayor. Ms. Oana replied yes.

Commissioner Tomita questioned if he should follow up with the Mayor. Commissioner Johnson replied that letters should not be written to Akaku, but can be written to the Mayor to tell Akaku. Ms. Oana added that their role is to request the Mayor to speak to the Akaku.

Ms. Podlewski asked for clarification as to what items the letter is addressing, as it sounds like closed captioning.

Commissioner Johnson replied that he would like to follow up on all letters prepared in the past.

Chair Laemoa stated that they are writing a letter to Department of Transportation regarding the flashing lights and request attendance at the next meeting. She advised Commissioner Tomita if he could follow up on the letter. Commissioner Tomita asked if they were writing to Public Works and if they are related to the Fire Department. Chair Laemoa replied that David Goode is Public Works.

Chair Laemoa advised that Ms. Oana would continue to work on the wording for the draft letter, while the Commission continues discussion on other agenda items and will return to this item.

d. Lack of Sidewalks and Faded Crosswalks in Maui County

- i. Review and action on proposed letter prepared by Commissioner Azizoltani

Chair Laemoa stated that this will be included in the letter to Public Works.

e. Upcoming Events

Chair Laemoa advised that Disability Fair will be held on Molokai on September 23rd, participating agencies include DVR, Alu Like, MEO and Work Force Development; in addition, job readiness training will be held in August.

Ms. Oana reported that she attended the DCAB public hearing and advised that Hawaii Outdoor Guidelines are posted on DCAB website; public comments are requested by April 29th. She recommended that any comments be submitted as an individual.

Chair Laemoa read the prepared draft letter addressed to Director Goode to the Commissioners and asked for their comments. Commissioner Tomita requested that it be copied to the Mayor. Ms. Oana advised that they can add cc to the Mayor's Office.

Commissioner Souza presented a MOTION to accept the draft letter and to have Chair Laemoa execute and send it to the identified parties. SECONDED by Commission Kapoi. Chair Laemoa called for the vote; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. American Sign Language Training and Funding for sign language Interpreter

Commissioner Tomita stated that he is not sure if this was regarding private agencies or County. Chair Laemoa responded that he wanted to do training at County offices but no interpreter services is available for him.

Commissioner Tomita advised that he did not connect with Mr. Schwind and he would try again.

- b. Concerns about Department of Transportation regarding Proviso of Services in General and Paratransit

Deferred.

VI. AGENDA SETTING

Commissioner Johnson requested that Underemployment item remain on agenda.

Commissioner Tomita shared that he received information that two deaf persons recently went to the Emergency Room and were not provided an interpreter; he added that Kaiser provides interpreters. He asked if he should write a letter through Maui County. Ms. Oana advised that unless there was a department head involved, he would need to handle the issue as an individual. She recommended that the Commission do research first on the issue before it prepares a letter requesting clarification.

Commissioner Tomita reported that on Oahu, deaf/hearing impaired persons are provided with an emergency identification card from the Honolulu Police Department. Ms. Oana recommended that Commissioner Tomita do further research and perhaps the Commission could later make a suggestion to the Maui Police Department to include this in its budget. Chair Laemoa commented that this would could also be used for children. She responded that this item should be added to the agenda.

Ms. Podlewski reminded Chair Laemoa that Election of Officers should be held in May.

Ms. Oana asked that Commission if it would like a refresher on the Sunshine Law and Ethics. Commissioners agreed that this should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Tomita announced that the Maui Deaf Friends will be celebrating its 36 year anniversary on June 12th, at Kanaha Beach Park and invited all to attend. Ms. Oana reminded everyone that the Sunshine Law should be adhered to.

Commissioner Tomita also shared that the Maui Theatre now has closed captioning for limited showings on Saturdays and Monday nights.

VII. NEXT MEETING

May 12, 2016, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at Cameron Center, Conf. Rm# 1.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Souza presented a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. SECONDED by Commissioner Tomita. Chair Laemoa called for the vote, all in favor, no objection. MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.