



**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES (CACOD)  
COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES**

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**LOCATION:**

Main Library  
Lower Level Meeting Room

**DATE:**

October 13, 2016

**TIME:**

12:30 pm

Meeting called to order at 12:55 p.m. by Chairperson McClain.

**ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bell, Anthony  
Calsita, Ciarra  
Gauthier, David  
Hernandez, Richard  
McClain, Deaka

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Karadjov, Chris

**STAFF PRESENT**

Blackmun, Heather  
Bussi, Katherine

**GUESTS**

Bowman, Sidney  
Butler, Josh  
Caron, Josephine  
Chaddock, Emily

**MINUTES:**

Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to approve the September 8, 2016 minutes. Commissioner Gauthier seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0-0).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Sidney Bowman and Emily Chaddock, currently graduate students at CSULB on a research grant for culturally responsive transition planning for high school students. As part of their research, Miss Bowman and Miss Chaddock have learned that many parents, students and schools are not aware of the many resources available to disabled students after they graduate, which can be a roadblock to a smooth transition. Miss Bowman and Miss Chaddock came to CACoD for ideas and insight into just what resources are available and the best way to connect families with these resources. Chair McClain offered to speak more in depth with the students after the commission meeting ended.

Josh Butler, Executive Director for Housing Long Beach (HLB), requested CACoD's endorsement of HLB's proposed responsible renter's ordinance, referred to as 'Just Cause Eviction,' that could prevent the displacement of low income and disabled renters. Mr. Butler stated that Long Beach has the fastest rising rents in the State of California. Over the last two years, Long Beach renters have seen an 18% increase in their monthly rents and there are currently 19,000 people on the Section 8 waiting list. To add to that, because there is a severe shortage of affordable housing, many current Section 8 clients in Long Beach (and around the country) are unable to use their housing vouchers before they expire. Mr. Butler further explained that currently, renters in Long

Beach can be evicted for no cause. This ordinance will help keep people in place and include appropriate relocation assistance for renters that are forced out due to change in ownership or use of the building they live in (currently, the relocation assistance is \$2,000 and 10 days). Mr. Butler requested to be put CACoD's agenda to give a thorough presentation in December. HLB is currently reaching out to all of the council offices and hopes to have this item agendized early next year.

Josephine Caron, Department of Library Services (LS), announced a new electronic, online resource, free to anyone with a City of Long Beach library card, called 'Brain Fuse.' 'Brain Fuse' has two parts (found under the databases tab on LS main web page): 1) 'Help Now' provides live tutoring for all ages and levels in math, reading, writing, science, social studies, and SATs. The tutors are available in English and Spanish every day from 1:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. 2) 'Job Now' provides patrons with a whole host of services to help with every step of the job search process. This includes online job coaches to help pinpoint desired career field, provide constructive feedback on resumes, cover letters, or give a live interview practice with feedback. This service also offers a variety of templates, interview tips and sample interview questions. The coaches are available every day from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ms. Caron also announced that after a few false starts, LS is finally going through the process of getting quotes for the new software for the Information Center for People with Disabilities.

### **STAFF REPORT:**

Heather Blackmun, Citywide ADA Coordinator reported that Sherriel Murry-Miles had been transferred over to Occupational Health and would no longer be attending CACoD. Ms. Blackmun reported that Disability Mentoring Day 2016 was a great success and reminded the commission that the DEAM Proclamation would be given on Tuesday, October 18 and the DEAM Celebration is confirmed for Thursday, October 27, 2016. Ms. Blackmun also reported that Mayor Garcia is actively filling CACoD's vacant commission seats, and is hopeful that all three vacancies will be filled by the end of the year. Ms. Blackmun confirmed a presentation from public works on truncated domes in November. Ms. Blackmun and the commissioners clarified why they would like for the city attorney to come give a presentation and Ms. Blackmun agreed to circle back with the city attorney for a presentation date.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Accessibility & Transportation Standing Committee:**

Commissioner Bell reported that there was no quorum.

#### **Programs & Services Standing Committee**

Commissioner Hernandez reported that there was no quorum.

#### **Youth & Employment Standing Committee**

Commissioner Calsita reported that the committee met briefly to discuss Disability Mentoring Day

Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to accept the committee report. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0-0).

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Towne Hall meeting: Ad Hoc Committee Report – Commissioner Bell reported that there were no updates to give.
- B. DEAM: Ad Hoc Committee Report: Chair McClain reported that Nancy Foster was not available to be the keynote speaker; nor Dolores Nason. The keynote speakers will be two job developers from the Disabled Resources Center – Alice Bruns and Zaid Moges – they will speak for 15 minutes. The event is confirmed for Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Heather Blackmun reported that there were 9 confirmed booths so far and that snacks and water would be provided. There was also a discussion and confirmation of the program lineup.

Commissioner Gauthier made a motion to approve the Ad Hoc committee report. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0-0).

- C. Commissioner Bell made a motion to table the discussion regarding how to increase public participation at CACoD events, including new business cards and flyers. Commissioner Gauthier seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0-0).
- D. Commissioner Gauthier made a motion to table the discussion regarding the Live Feed of CACoD meetings. Commissioner Calsita seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0-0).
- E. Commissioner Gauthier made a motion to table the discussion regarding updating the City's ADA website. Commissioner Calsita seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0-0).
- F. Commissioner Gauthier made a motion to discuss a celebration for out-going City staff. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. It was decided that the celebration will be held during our December meeting as well as a holiday potluck. The motion carried (5-0-0).
- G. Commissioner Gauthier made a motion to draft an invitation to the LB Airport to discuss accommodating disabled patrons in the event of an airline shutdown. Commissioner Calsita seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0-0).

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Commissioner Calsita made a motion to table approving the invitation to the LB Housing Authority. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0-0).
- B. Commissioner Gauthier made a motion to table drafting a letter advising the Mayor of the need for trash receptacles in the men's accessible bathroom stalls in all City facilities. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0-0).
- C. Commissioner Gauthier made a motion to remove drafting a letter to the Mayor in support of Prop 61. Commissioner Calsita seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0-0).

- D. Commissioner Gauthier made the motion to discuss CACoD's participation in the Human Abilities Festival at the Aquarium. Commissioner Calsita seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The motion carried (5-0-0). Commissioner Calsita agreed to bring more information regarding the event to the next meeting.
- E. Commissioner Gauthier made a motion to discuss CACoD's participation in the Martin Luther King Festival and Parade. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The motion carried (5-0-0).
- F. Commissioner Calsita made a motion to table CACoD's participation in the Southern California Special Olympics. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0-0).
- G. Commissioner Bell made a motion to table the discussion regarding the new ADA transition plan and CACoD's participation. Commissioner Calsita seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0-0).
- H. Commissioner Calsita made a motion to table creating a survey to help CACoD assess the needs of the disabled community. Commissioner Gauthier seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0-0).

**CHAIRPERSON AND/OR VICE-CHAIRPERSON CLOSING REMARKS:**

Chair McClain thanked the commission for a successful Disability Mentoring Day, with special accolades to Secretary Calsita. Chair McClain also thanked everyone for her birthday wishes.

**ANNOUNCEMENT & CORRESPONDENCE:**

Commissioner Hernandez announced that the Disabled Resources Center is having a town hall meeting on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at Wardlow Park Community Center from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hernandez handed out 'easy voter guides.'

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Motion to discuss agendaizing a presentation from Housing Long Beach
2. Motion to discuss reorganization of CACoD agendas, in particular, the public comment section
3. Motion to discuss refresher presentation on Robert's Rules of Order
4. Motion to implement a planning calendar for the entire year to help with event coordination
5. Motion to discuss possible modifications to standing committees
6. Motion to discuss by-laws
7. Motion to invite the police department for a presentation to discuss training tools the department gives their officers to assist them in identifying and interacting with residents that have mental health disabilities, such as autism.
8. Motion to discuss changing meeting time to 1:00 p.m.
9. Motion to discuss having a December meeting

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Gauthier made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 p.m. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0-0).

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

The City of Long Beach intends to provide reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If a special accommodation is desired, or if this information is needed in an alternative format, please contact Heather Blackmun at (562) 570-6257, 48 hours prior to the CACoD Meeting.