

MONTEREY COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

November 28, 2011 - 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Monterey County Administration Building

Monterey Room (2092), Second Floor

168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas CA 93901

- I. ROLL CALL AND GREETING OF VISITORS** – Chair Alma Almanza called the meeting to order. She welcomed our new Commissioner Harry Bergstresser.

Commissioners Present – Alma Almanza, Mario Salazar, Lilia Chagolla, Olivia Quezada, Jose Vasquez, Stella Lauerman, Steve Matarazzo, John Pinio, Steve McCullough, Eric Heckman and Laura Harris.

Commissioners Not Present – Carmelita Garcia, George Molano and Robert Greene.

Guest and Staff Present – Equal Opportunity Officer Irma Ramirez-Bough, Associate Equal Opportunity Analyst Sonje Dayries, Administrative Secretary-Confidential Elisa Cantu, Equal Opportunity Specialist Confidential Michelle Gomez, and Deputy County Counsel William Litt.

- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lauerman moved to approve the minutes of September 26, 2011; seconded by Commissioner Matarazzo. Commissioners Harris, McCullough and Pinio abstained. The minutes of September 26, 2011 were approved.

IV. MARGARET KEITH, MANAGER, STUDENT DISABILITY RESOURCES CSUMB

Ms. Keith gave a power point presentation to the Commission on Student Disability Resources. Ms. Keith reported that there are over 5,000 students enrolled at CSUMB; of those 260 have verified disabilities. Ms. Keith spoke about the disability culture, the negative stereotypes and positive counterparts. Provided the Commission with disability resources, i.e. books and websites. Also provided the Commission with a flyer "Making Your Public Event Accessible to People with Disabilities: A Checklist." Commissioner Pinio asked how students compare to others academically. Ms. Keith stated they are keeping pace with other minorities and it takes them a little longer to graduate. Commissioner McCullough asked if they have language difficulties. Ms. Keith replied that this is a real challenge to figure out if it is a learning disability or if it is other things like hearing impairment.

The Commission thanked Ms. Keith for her informative presentation.

V. UPDATE ON WEBSITE

Commissioner Harris stated that Eddie Urena from IT has made the changes requested. Commissioner Harris reported that

regarding the community calendar, she found a google calendar. Eddie has a draft page for the Commission. Commissioner Harris stated it can be embedded into any website from any organization who chooses to use it. She stated this was a good way to stop the duplication of effort and spread the responsibility to everyone to make sure their event is posted. Commissioner Harris found another link by United Cerebral Palsy where they have created a One Stop, that is user friendly and contains excellent collection of resources. She would like to propose that the Commission take a look at it (first they would have to obtained permission to copy from United Cerebral Palsy). She will share the link with the Commissioners and requested feedback from them. Commissioner Almanza stated she found a couple of things that were not up to date and suggested that maybe some of the students from CSUMB could work on this project.

Commissioner Chagolla inquired as to who was hosting the calendar. Commissioner Harris stated that right now Special Kids Crusade. She stated that it is very simple, you send an email to her and all she has to do is click "accept" and it automatically is posted. Commissioner Chagolla asked if this calendar was only for the Commission. Commissioner Harris stated any entity can use it. It would be housed separately, so that it is a neutral place where everyone can go.

VI. ACCEPT AND SUPPORT PARKS REPORT ON ZIPLINE

Commissioner Pinio stated that he is not asking for support from the Commission at this time. He only wants the Commission to approve the report. Commissioner Pinio stated there are several groups that are concerned with the zipline. David Lutes, Parks Planning Manager gave a brief background on the zipline. Mr. Lutes stated that one of the challenges on the county level, is the natural resources at the site, which has been designated as Open Space with Visual Sensitivity and a Resource Conservation site. The semi-wilderness landscape cannot accommodate electric-powered elevators capable of independent operation by disabled persons to access the platforms. Mr. Lutes reported that to date they have not figured how to make it accessible to the disabled, unless this person has the physical strength to independently harness themselves. Commissioner Pinio said it does not exclude everybody with a disability, like hearing or sight would not be a problem. Ms. Keith stated that there are people in wheelchairs who do rock climbing. She asked if the vendor has been put to all research; what we may think is not reasonable, maybe other communities have figured out how to do it. Commissioner McCullough stated the Commission needs time to soak up this information. There will be situations coming up, like one leg amputees or one arm. Will they be turned away? Commissioner Pinio stated they have bent over backwards to figure out how and what they can do to

accommodate people with disabilities. Commissioner Almanza stated that Commissioner Quezada has already inquired with other entities as to the safety for people with disabilities and all have said that it would not be very safe. Commissioner Almanza stated “I would not like to put myself at that risk.” She does not feel comfortable as a Commissioner to say this project is safe. I would just say that it would be impracticable for people with mobility impairments. Commissioner Chagolla stated that if people with disabilities want their friends to carry them, that is fine, they won’t be turned away. Commissioner Harris requested that the Commission be informed of the continued exploration and solution. Commissioner McCullough made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Commissioner Chagolla; motion passed. Commissioner Harris abstained.

VII. DISCUSS CELEBRATING THE COMMISSION’S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Commissioner Pinio stated the Chair has suggested celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Commission. It would be held on January 30, 2012 at the Red Bull Energy Center, Laguna Seca. One of the suggestions was to invite those recipients that have been acknowledged for complying with the ADA. Also invite City Mayors, and Board members. He suggested the Commissioners encourage organizations to buy a table. Commissioner Pinio asked for suggestions from the Commission. Commissioner Pinio will extend an invitation to

Mia Carroll to cover the Celebration. Deputy County Counsel stated that the Commission has to comply with the Brown Act and the public would be invited, whether or not they purchase lunch. All Commissioners were in favor of having the celebration.

VIII. OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Lauerma gave a brief power point presentation. She stated that she basically took all information from the website, it included the history of the Commission, purpose, members and staff. Commissioner Salazar suggested adding, under Meetings, that the Monterey Room is ADA accessible. Other suggestions were to include the accomplishments like the Greenfield Bridge, Goals, Commission's website and the agencies that have been acknowledged.

X. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Discuss the fire in Marina
- Outreach – discuss an action plan

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to attend, meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.