

Minutes for the Monterey County Commission on Disabilities



Minutes

MONDAY, March 28, 2005 2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

MINUTES FOR THE
MONTEREY COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
MONTEREY COUNTY TRAINING CENTER
1441 CONSTITUTION BLVD., BLDG. 840 – SALINAS, CA 93906

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Pinio called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS/GUEST SPEAKERS

Commissioners Present – Amy Allard, Alma Almanza, MaryLea Almeida, Roger Baez, Robert Davis, Carolyn Hinds, Audra Krebs, John Pinio, Charlene Wiseman. Commissioners Excused – Merryl Carr, Anna Foglia, Carol A. Ryan and Sam Trevino. Guests, Members of the Public, & Staff – Supervisor Dave Potter, District 5, Jennifer O’Hara, Allen Bidwell, Charles McKee and Elisa Cantu.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

March 28, 2005 Agenda

Agenda approved unanimously.

February 28, 2004 Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously. IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

GUEST SPEAKER

Supervisor Dave Potter, District 5, stated his district includes Big Sur, Carmel, Carmel Valley, Pebble Beach, Pacific Grove, Monterey, HWY 68 and the Salinas River and about 5 miles up the river down River Rd. He was a Building Contractor before becoming a Supervisor for the County of Monterey. Sup. Potter stated he appreciates the Commissioners’ involvement in that they serve as representatives and a source of information dissemination to people who perhaps don’t

realize what level of access they're entitled to. Com. Almanza asked regarding the proper way to take an issue to the Board? Sup. Potter replied, "It is always helpful if the Commission has a position on something, but if it is time sensitive and needs to be brought to the Board, then your Chair can always bring it to our attention and go from there. This brings up the question of 'what level of watchdog capacity does this Commission want to have?' It is important that when you see something wrong out in the community, that it is righted, you cannot turn a blind eye and ignore it, it has to be addressed. By coming before the Board, it would be best to channel it first through this Commission so there is a full understanding of what is going on." Com. Davis asked if there is any chance of getting the 90-day window for correction before legal action is taken. Sup. Potter replied that he would prefer the 90-day window and would hope that something could be done at the local level. Com. Allard asked "What level of watchdog would you like us to be without the funding? We do not have funding, but there are a lot of things we can do, such as have workshops for business owners and the public and give information on how they can improve access." Sup. Potter replied, "Those are good constructive suggestions that get the message out. There may be a cost associated with the gathering of information and the publications, brochures, etc., but that kind of positive PR is something this body can provide and the Board would be receptive to some sort of cost consideration as a special service line item perhaps." Com. Davis commented that small cities do not know of the ADA until they're sued and it might be helpful to bring awareness to the communities. Sup. Potter agreed and added that many times it is much better to spend a little money on the front end and save a lot of money on the back end. Chair Pinio asked regarding this Commission's jurisdiction? Sup. Potter replied he does not see access being an issue that knows city boundaries, and that this was supposed to be a rather global organization. He stated that social services does not stay out of the cities and health does not stay out of the cities. He added that he felt this group would serve as a more global "convener" of debate and discussion for access issues. Chair Pinio and the Commission thanked Supervisor Potter for addressing this Commission.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS None VII. OFFICER REPORTS

Chair Pinio thanked this group for the effort they put towards the retreat. Vice-Chair Foglia was not present to give a report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Pinio stated there are no ad-hoc committees at this time.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on the Status of the Access Appeals Board. Mr. McKee stated he had a conversation with Mr. Scott Hennessy from Planning and they went over what the composition of the Board should be. They recommend creating a list that includes organizations that have the expertise needed for access, civil engineering, architectural, and for such organizations to be represented on the Access Appeals Board. They also recommend having the organizational set up in place, have the by-laws and everything else needed so when a specific issue comes up for appeal, the

group is ready to take it on, rather than this group meeting for the sake of meeting.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ad-Hoc Committee Member Selection.

MOTION: Com. Davis moved to establish an Ad-hoc Committee to report to COD on potential composition of an Access Appeals Board, 2 members must be persons with disabilities, 2 members must represent the Building Community, and 1 must be a member of the public. Com. Allard seconded the motion and it passed 9/0/0. Com. Allard nominated Com. Almanza as Chair of this Committee and to be on the Access Appeals Board. Com. Krebs volunteered to be on the Access Appeals Board. Chair Pinio appointed Com. Almanza and Com. Krebs to be on the Access Appeals Board.

The Ad-Hoc Communication/PR Committee was created. Chair Pinio appointed Com. Allard and Com. Almeida as Co-Chairs. Members are Coms. Krebs, Almanza, Baez and Davis. Com. Davis volunteered to research how many ADA committees there are in the County with names of leaders. Com. Almanza stated that the City of Salinas has an Ad-Hoc ADA Committee and volunteered to help.

The Ad-Hoc Admin Committee was created. Chair Pinio appointed Com. Trevino as Chair. Members are Coms. Pinio, Foglia, Ryan and Hinds.

B. Establish Objectives for the Four (4) Commission Goals Developed at the Retreat.

Chair Pinio stated the first 2 goals were already discussed and went to #3. GOAL #3. Determine Commission needs for support staff including roles and responsibilities of the new Equal Opportunity Officer. Chair Pinio asked Mr. McKee regarding the status of hiring a new Officer. Mr. McKee replied that the process is moving along and tomorrow should be the final interviews. Mr. McKee stated some candidates are local and others are from other counties. Chair Pinio stated he is 100% satisfied with support staff.

GOAL #4. Develop process to get positive information and education out to the Community,..., regarding ADA requirements, vocabulary, respect and dignity. Chair Pinio stated Ad-Hoc Committees created today should help with this goal, along with Com. Davis' and Com. Almanza's research on ADA Committees in the County.

XI. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMISSION

Chair Pinio introduced Com. Charlene Wiseman, who represents the Department Heads Council. Com. Wiseman introduced Jennifer O'Hara as the ADA Coordinator for the County. Chair Pinio suggested having Jennifer on next month's agenda to tell us the types of inquiries she's gotten regarding County access issues and what the County has done to correct them. Com. Allard asked for a list of inexpensive repairs that businesses could make. Mr. McKee pointed out that technically, it is against the Brown Act to have a roundtable discussion, and suggests having "Commissioner Comments" instead. He stated that substantive items cannot be discussed if they are not on the agenda, items like scheduling can be discussed. Chair Pinio would like to have this

group schedule a summer meeting to take place at one of the County Parks. The group liked the idea. Com. Hinds announced she will be traveling to England for the next meeting and the group wished her a good trip. Com. Allard asked staff to provide all info from the Outreach/Communication Committee. Com. Almanza announced a speaker from CCCIL for the next meeting. Chair Pinio announced possibility of taking a tour of the new County Admin Building and having meetings there after June.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. by Chair Pinio.