

Minutes for the Monterey County Commission on Disabilities



Minutes

MONDAY, September 26, 2005 2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

MINUTES FOR THE
MONTEREY COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
MONTEREY COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
MONTEREY ROOM, RM. 2092, SECOND FLOOR
168 W. ALISAL ST. – SALINAS, CA 93901

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair John Pinio called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. Due to lack of a quorum, Chair Pinio began the meeting by welcoming and introducing the newly appointed Commissioners, James C. Bogan representing District 4 and Manuel Ramos representing District 1. He officially welcomed James Cromarty representing District 3.

II. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS/GUEST SPEAKERS

A. Commissioners Present – Amy Allard, Alma Almanza, MaryLea Almeida, Carolyn Hinds, James M. Krossa, James Cromarty, James Bogan, Robert Davis, Audra Krebs and Manuel Ramos.

B. Commissioners Excused – Meryll Carr, Anna Foglia, Sam Trevino, Carol A. Ryan and Charlene Wiseman.

C. Guests, Members of the Public, Staff – Equal Opportunity Officer David Medrano, Equal Opportunity Office Staff Elisa Cantu, Capitol Projects Director Linda Butson, Dennis McCoy of Nova Partners, Deputy County Counsel Allen Bidwell, Diana Ramos and Danyall Sanchez.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved, once a quorum was present

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

V. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

(See I above)

VI. OFFICER REPORTS

A. Chair Pinio stated that the Monterey Conference Room has been reserved, on reoccurring basis, for the last Monday of each month from 2:00– 4:00 p.m.

B. Vice-Chair Foglia was not present.

C. Mr. Medrano stated he met with Information Technology and they will be updating the Commission's website.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update from Capitol Projects Division – Capitol Project Director, Linda Butson addressed the issue of the tile surface leading to the front of the building. Ms. Butson stated that the work done is ADA compliance and rated for fire trucks to drive on. Dennis McCoy of Nova Partners stated that it would be terribly expensive to retile and/or tear up the front tile. Commissioner Almanza stated she is aware of the expense involved and is not asking that it be retiled; but reiterated that it is challenging for people in wheelchairs, people with walkers and people with canes. Commissioner Allard stated that maybe Capitol Projects can look into creating a pathway, as previously suggested by Commissioner Trevino. More suggestions and discussion was had on this issue. It was agreed that Ms. Butson and Mr. McCoy would go back to the Capitol Projects Committee and report at a later date to this Commission. Commissioner Ramos pointed out that the wheelchair accessible button to the front doors is difficult to locate. Mrs. Ramos stated that if she had not accompanied her husband, he would not have been able to open the door on his own. Mrs. Ramos suggested that automatic sensors be installed. Ms. Butson stated they would look into this issue.

B. Discussion on the memo from County Counsel, Charles McKee.

Deputy County Counsel Allen Bidwell deferred discussion on memo to the next meeting.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Allard reported that the Outreach Committee (Allard, Almanza and Carr) met on June 28, 2005. Commissioner Allard provided the Commission with the Committee's goals and objectives. The Committee would like to recommend speakers to the Commission, recognize businesses that provide access, housing or employment to people with disabilities. The Committee would also like to raise public awareness of this Commission through distribution of flyers and publication of meetings on television and community calendars. Commissioner Almanza pointed out that this Commission has no budget.

Commissioner Bogan suggested asking non-profit organizations for grants. Commissioner Bogan volunteered to be on the Outreach Committee. Commissioner Bogan will look into the issue of asking for grants and report at the next meeting. Deputy County Counsel Allen Bidwell stated that before the Commission can accept any grants, it needs the Board's approval.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hinds announced that Monterey County Committee for the Employment of People with Disabilities will hold its Seventh Annual Employer Award Luncheon on October 13, 2005. She will ask staff to mail flyers to the Commissioners.

Chair Pinio announced that he would like to have the Parks Foundation sponsor a barbeque for this Commission. If the Commissioners agree, it could be held in November at Royal Oaks Park, which is ADA accessible.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m. by Chair John Pinio. The next meeting will be held Monday, October 31, 2005.