

Minutes for the Monterey County Commission on Disabilities



Minutes

MONDAY, October 31, 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 2:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS/GUEST SPEAKERS

- A. Commissioners Present – Chair John Pinio, Amy Allard, MaryLea Almeida, Manuel Ramos, Alma Almanza, Anna Foglia, James C. Bogan, James Cromarty, Charlene Wiseman and James M. Krossa.
- B. Commissioners Absent – Sam Trevino, Carol A. Ryan, Robert Davis, Audra Krebs, and Carolyn Hinds.
- C. Guests, Members of the Public, Staff – Equal Opportunity Officer David Medrano, Administrative Secretary Elisa Cantu, Registrar of Voters Tony Anchundo, Bill Freeman, Dennika Dallimore and Diana Ramos.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

V. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Chair Pinio announced the resignation of Commissioner Carr.

VI. OFFICER REPORTS

A. Chair Pinio stated that the Parks Foundation has agreed to sponsor a barbeque for the Commission. It was decided that the meeting will be held on Monday, November 28, 2005 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at Royal Oaks Park. Chair Pinio stated that we should have our regular meeting and then adjourn to the barbeque. Chair Pinio suggested inviting the Parks Foundation, Parks Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

Should there be a change in location, due to the weather, staff will inform the Commissioners by no later than 10:00 a.m. the day of the meeting.

B. Vice-Chair Foglia reported that she was deployed by the Red Cross to San Antonio, Texas. Commissioner Foglia stated that it was complete chaos when she arrived. Even though it was complete chaos, she supports the work of the Red Cross and recommends donations be made to the Red Cross.

It was suggested that the Commission invite the Office of Emergency Services to give a presentation on how prepared the County is to handle such disasters.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach Committee - Commissioner Allard stated that the Committee had not met and therefore she had nothing to report. Commissioner Allard stated that she would like to step down as the Committee Chair. Chair Pinio appointed Commissioner James Bogan as Chair of the Outreach Committee. Commissioner Bogan stated that he has the information regarding grants. Commissioner Bogan stated that the Commission has to fill out an application. Commissioner Almanza asked Commissioner Bogan to provide the Commission with the financial resources of these organizations. Chair Pinio suggested that the Committee provide specific names of the organizations and their financial resources so that the Commission can make a determination on how much to apply for.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Registrar of Voters Tony Anchundo made a presentation on the new Touch Screen Election Voting machine. Mr. Anchundo stated that legislation will go into effect on January 1, 2006 which mandates that voting be accessible to all at every polling place. Mr. Anchundo stated that the County's voting system meets 2002 ADA standards. It is accessible to people in wheelchairs and those who are vision impaired.

Commissioner Almanza asked Mr. Anchundo concerning the voter's privacy. Mr. Anchundo stated that they have a room where one can vote in private. They also provide headsets, upon request. Mr. Anchundo pointed out that it is going to be difficult to provide polling places that are ADA accessible, especially in the rural areas. Mr. Anchundo stated he does not have the funds to upgrade all the facilities to meet ADA requirements. Mr. Anchundo asked the Commission for suggestions on how to find a solution to ensure voting polls are accessible to everyone.

The Commission thanked Mr. Anchundo for his presentation and demonstration of the screen voting machine.

B. Bill Freeman – Social Vocational Services addressed the Commission. Mr. Freeman stated that his main objective is to find employment for people with disabilities. Mr. Freeman stated that he has been successful in finding jobs for his clients with Safeway stores. Commissioner Foglia asked Mr. Freeman what are some of the barriers he has encountered. Mr. Freeman stated that ignorance is the main one. Mr. Freeman stated that employers are still not comfortable hiring someone with a disability. Mr. Freeman states that he always informs employers of his client's skills. Mr. Freeman also informs them that by hiring individuals with disabilities, they are entitled to a tax benefit from the state. Commissioner Almanza stated that employers are also entitled to a one time tax credit from the federal government. Commissioner Cromarty inquired how the Commissioners can refer clients to Vocational Services. Mr. Freeman provided the Commissioners with a flyer as well as his telephone number.

The Commission thanked Mr. Freeman for his presentation and offered its assistance.

C. There was discussion on whether to hold a meeting in December. Commissioner Foglia made a motion to

not meet in December; motion seconded and carried.

D. Mr. Medrano stated that the Equal Opportunity Office is recruiting for an Equal Opportunity Analyst. Anyone interested can go on the County's website and download the application.

IX. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Chair John Pinio stated that the Parks Department has received \$160,000 in funding to improve parking at the parks to meet ADA requirements.

Chair Pinio asked Commissioner Wiseman if the Commission could be provided with parking. Commissioner Wiseman and Mr. Medrano will get together and come up with a solution.

Commissioner Allard announced that the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz is holding a Reasonable Accommodation in the

Workplace workshop on November 14, 2005 and registration is free.

Commissioner Cromarty stated that he supports Mr. Medrano's letter regarding "being on time" to the meetings.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. by Chair John Pinio.