

Minutes for the Monterey County Commission on Disabilities



Minutes

MONDAY, September 27, 2004 2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

MINUTES FOR THE
MONTEREY COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE CENTER
1432 ABBOTT STREET - SALINAS, CA 93901

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Flynn called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS/GUEST SPEAKERS

- Commissioners Present – Alma Almanza, Merryl Carr, Fred Crummey, Robert Davis, Barbara Flynn, Anna Foglia, Carolyn Hinds, Carol A. Ryan, Richard Smith, Sam Trevino, John Villalpando and Tori Hannah representing Charlene Wiseman.
- Commissioners Excused – Roger Baez, Stanley Cook and Byrl Smith.
- Guests, Members of the Public, & Staff – Charles McKee, County Counsel and Allen Bidwell, Deputy County Counsel.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

- September 27th Agenda
- Agenda approved unanimously 12/0/0.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTSNone.V. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

- Chair Flynn welcomed Commissioners Carolyn Hinds, Robert Davis and Sam Trevino. There were brief introductions by all commissioners.

VI. OFFICER REPORTS

- CHAIR – Nothing to report.
- VICE-CHAIR – Vice-Chair Ryan expressed concern regarding the “cuts” on services for the disabled, stated needing direction/guidance from this Commission to write a letter. Chair Flynn suggested to agendize this for the next meeting.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Administrative – Com. Bumba was not present to give report. Chair Flynn commented on committee’s progress with the By-laws and on absenteeism by commissioners.

- Access/Outreach – Com. Almanza reported on last committee meeting in May, importance to recognize best practices among business/organizations in the community, send letters out to hear complaints/disputes, want to have speakers at monthly meetings.
- Communication/Alliances – Com. Foglia announced brochure, list of alliances/speakers to invite to monthly meetings, goal is to get story out in the media for publicity.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- Chair Flynn announced the revision of the by-laws regarding residency of members and staggering terms of office. Staff will get copy of revised by-laws to Allen Bidwell.
- Commissioner Villalpando stated he could no longer attend the In-Home Supportive Services meetings due to staff reductions. Commissioner Hinds volunteered to attend these meetings at 2:00 PM at the Quadrangle.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Chair Flynn announced residents will be remaining at Rippling River while renovations take place. Commissioner Trevino confirmed this adding that efforts would be made to not displace residents during the remodeling.**B.** Interim Equal Opportunity Officer Charles McKee stated having contracted with Richard Garcia to begin recruiting process for Equal Opportunity Officer position. Chair Flynn asked regarding a timeline for the recruitment, which is forthcoming. Vice-Chair Ryan asked regarding the qualifications. Mr. McKee stated these are general qualifications for that position and welcomes suggestions from this Commission.

C. Mr. McKee suggested this Commission should wait to see what happens with the new Equal Opportunity Officer. If this group wants more Board contact, you can get message across via the EO Sub-Committee. Com. Foglia expressed concern with this Commission not getting information to the Board and the fact that this Commission relied on Rudy Asunsolo's guidance for that. Com. Trevino explained there are processes by which to get information to the Board and that success of a Commission depends on its leadership. Com. Almanza added that it depends on the commitment by each commissioner. Vice-Chair Ryan expressed her concern re the appeals committee, how to get info to the Board, and hearing about issues such as the closure of Roy's Burger as a result of an ADA related lawsuit. Com. Crummey stated his disappointment with the function of this Commission. Com. Ryan agreed with Com. Almanza that it is up to the commissioners for something to happen and not the role of the new EO Officer. Chair Flynn agreed and added that legislation is public to all and can be accessed by all commissioners. Com. R. Smith suggested revisiting the goals from the retreat and reorganizing ourselves according to the committees.

Staff will email all commissioners asking to attend the next meeting to get a commitment from all for next year.

- Com Trevino asked commissioners to state what they saw the role of this Commission as being. Com. Carr stated she goes to businesses and advises them of the ADA and therefore she uses this Commission as a vehicle to provide awareness and to educate business owners. Com. Almanza suggested providing more education on the ADA for commissioners. Com. R. Smith stated that the role of this Commission is to be an advisory body to the Board. Com. Villalpando asked regarding having someone from the Santa Cruz Commission speak before this Commission. Chair Flynn will ask Andrea Smith to speak at one of our meetings.

X. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMISSION

- Com. Davis commented that the biggest problem encountered at the City of Pacific Grove is enforcement of ADA Regulations. He stated that if there is a complaint about accessibility, it is resolved through a lawsuit in Federal Court and that makes it very difficult for a committee such as this to step in. Com. Davis suggested becoming aware of ADA officials in different cities and that our obligation is to inform businesses of potential liability through the Chamber of Commerce. He added that as an advisory body, it is our main obligation to inform our parent body what our problems are.
- Com. Villalpando talked about regulations and codes for buildings in the City of Monterey and stated there are no active lawsuits.
- Com. Trevino asked regarding the objectives for the three committees set up at the retreat. Com. Davis added he'd like to know also what the various cities in Monterey County are doing to resolve ADA issues. Vice-Chair Ryan added that currently there are eight city seats according to the by-laws, however the admin. Committee has submitted a change to five seats on the revised by-laws to County Counsel.
- Chair B. Flynn reminded everyone to email agenda items to her, cc staff for the next meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Flynn.