

SIERRA VISTA COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
AUGUST 12, 2015
REGULAR MEETING
CITY MANAGER CONFERENCE ROOM
MEETING SUMMARY

Ms. Gannon called the meeting of the Sierra Vista Commission on Disability Issues to order at approximately 3:30 p.m. in the City Manager Conference Room.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Virginia Gannon, Chair
Salina Bahk, Vice-Chair
Marshall Harper
Summer Morefield
Kristopher Rangel
Tom Reardon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Harry Walther

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Audrey Peterson-Hosto
Amy Carter

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT: Carla Boyd
Jessica Donnelly

STAFF LIAISON: Jeff Pregler

COUNCIL LIAISON: Councilmember Alesia Ash

OTHERS PRESENT: Luis Ruiz-Premiere Alliance
Rosie Mackey, West End Commission
Georgie Schumaker

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Mr. Harper motioned to accept the agenda. Mr. Reardon seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous to accept (5-0). Ms. Morefield arrived after vote

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. Mr. Rangel motioned to accept the minutes for the June 19, 2015 meeting. Mr. Harper seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous to accept (5-0). Ms. Morefield arrived after the vote.

PUBLIC INTRODUCTION

Mr. Ruiz introduced himself as working for Premiere Alliance.
Ms. Mackey introduced herself as a representative of the West End Commission.
Ms. Schumaker introduced herself.

UPDATES FROM OTHER CITY COMMISSIONS

Mr. Rangel gave an update on the West End Commission. He stated that the Commission has started to prepare for the West End Fair which is scheduled for May 7, 2016. He indicated that the Commission will be cleaning up two walls located at the West End of Fry Boulevard on August 22, 2015. Finally, he mentioned that Party Cents and Style 161 are two businesses that recently located on the West End.

Mr. Reardon provided an update on the Transportation Advisory Commission. He stated that there will not be a reduction or loss in curb to curb pickup service.

Ms. Carter gave an update on the Environmental Affairs Commission and stated that they discussed the economic development opportunities associated with solar energy and the grants available.

Mr. Pregler provided an update to the Planning & Zoning Commission. He stated that the Commission heard a presentation from Daniel Coxworth, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) administrator. He discussed various transportation projects throughout the MPO area such as West Fry Boulevard and North Garden Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Change in Meeting Time for CoDI.

Mr. Pregler indicated that due to potential conflicts with meeting at 3:30, the question has been raised on whether to change the meeting times. After much discussion, it was decided that the Commission will change the meeting time to 1:00 pm. This meeting time will take effect for the September 9 meeting.

3. Sierra VistAbility Day 2015.

Mr. Pregler stated that the registration forms to all potential booth holders will be distributed at the end of August. Mr. Pregler asked about the policy to allow vendors to sell their products at the event. There was consensus that vendors can bring in samples of their products and take orders, but no direct sales would be allowed. The Commission agreed to provide the panel discussion once again at the event. Mr. Pregler will coordinate with Ms. Peterson-Hosto on promotion of the event on Fort Huachuca.

4. Site visit to educate businesses.

Mr. Pregler stated that he was approached by the new owner of the Sorry Gulch Saloon who asked if the members of CoDI could provide ideas on how to make the building more ADA friendly to disabled customers and encouraged a walk-through of the building. The Commission spoke favorable of the idea and is awaiting the business owner to contact Mr. Pregler for the date and time of the walk-through.

5. Discussion on criteria for a Disability Friendly Business Sticker.

The Commission discussed the criteria for awarding the Disability Friendly Business Sticker to businesses. The proposed criteria are:

- 1) Employment for the disabled community;
- 2) A higher level of accessibility for both building access and product access;
- 3) Customer Service areas/representatives providing assistance are easily identified through signage or other identifiable symbols;
- 4) A mentoring or work skills program for disabled individuals to advance within the organization;
- 5) Employees have attended training classes and are certified and knowledgeable in ADA rules and regulations;
- 6) A friendly welcoming environment to disabled individuals (lower shelves, large easy to read lettering, assistive hearing devices available, etc.)
- 7) Generally support the goals of the Commission.

The Commission discussed how many of the criteria the business needed to meet to be eligible for the sticker. Although there was no consensus regarding the number of criteria, it was clear that the business was to be held to a higher standard to receive the award. Mr. Pregler will provide a draft policy at a future meeting that will include the nomination process and eligibility requirements.

6. Sheltered Workshop information.

The Commission discussed the most recent news regarding Sheltered Workshops. Sheltered workshops provide job training and skills to individuals with disabilities at a discounted wage. New federal legislation is requiring that the Sheltered Workshop provide these individuals with a living wage or minimum wage. The increase in wages is an added expense to the Workshop causing some to close, leaving the disabled workers without a job. Mr. Ruiz asked that the Commission get educated on the issue and if necessary provide input to the City Council or state legislators. This item will be on a future CoDI agenda.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Mackey indicated that she liked the Business sticker and would like the West End Commission to be involved in the process.

FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS, COMMISSION REQUESTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Gannon requested that the Commission discuss additional bus stops in the City and additional curb cuts at various businesses in the community.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

Councilmember Ash stated that there would be a Meet & Greet at the Vista Transfer Station on December 15 and requested that the Commission attend this event.

Ms. Ash stated that the Commission could have a presentation on the new City brand. Mr. Pregler will organize this event for a future meeting.

Ms. Ash stated that the revised Vista Transit plan is currently open for public comments. The public comment period ends on August 21. The changes and further information is online.

STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Pregler stated that the Business Award is being awarded to Vista Hair Cutters at the City Council meeting on August 13. Mr. Rangel will be present at the meeting.

Mr. Pregler stated that the terms expire for both Mr. Rangel and Ms. Morefield in September. He will provide them an updated application form so that they can renew their membership.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Virginia Gannon, Vice-Chair

Jeff Pregler, Staff Liaison