

**CITY OF OAKLAND**  
Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)  
**Monday, December 9, 2013**

**MINUTES**

- I. Called to order at 12:18 p.m.
- II. Roll Call:
  - Quorum : Yes
  - See Exhibit 1A
- III. Public Comments
  - None
- IV. Commissioners Announcements
  - Commissioner Blanks announced that on Wednesday, December 11, 2013, Enhanced Vision, which manufactures CCTB and other video magnifying devices for people with visual impairments or who are blind, will give a presentation at the Lions Blind Center, 2115 Broadway. Lunch will be served.
  - Commissioner Beard announced that on December 28, 2013 Piedmont Yoga Community will be hosting “Spa Day” which is its annual fund raising event. Piedmont Yoga Community supports people with disabilities and survivors of life-threatening illnesses.
- V. Approval of Minutes
  - There were the following corrections to the November 18, 2013 minutes:
    - Page 4, fourth bullet, the movie title is Cinemability. It is about disability in film.
    - Page 6, through instead of though.
    - Page 7, webinar instead of webinaire
    - Page 8, Item 9, New Business, Brook instead of Brooks.
    - Page 8, Item 9, fifth bullet point, years instead of year.
  - Motion to approve minutes with corrections

- Motion/Second: Commissioner Jacobs/Commissioner Rosenblatt
- Motion passed with consensus

VI. Agenda Modification and Approval

- December 9, 2013
- Motion/Second: Commissioner Burns/Commissioner Beard
- Agenda approved by consensus

VII. Chairperson's Report

- None

VIII. Vice-Chairperson's Report

- None

IX. Staff Reports

A. ADA Programs Division Update

- None

X. Old Business

A. Report back from December 4, 2013 Commission on Aging, (CoA) meeting and discussion on status of joint CoA/MCPD Access Compliance Advisory Committee (ACAC) and other collaborative efforts in 2014; Chairperson Beard reported:

- Described the past efforts to create relationships with the Commission on Aging, CoA. Discussed that there are several quality of life issues which equally impact both seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Chairperson Beard and Commissioner Blanks gave a presentation at the December 4, 2013 CoA meeting, its annual retreat, on the question if the joint CoA/MCPD ACAC experiment should continue in calendar year 2014.
- Commissioners and staff discussed the risks and benefits of keeping the ACAC a joint committee. The CoA commissioners showed willingness toward affording the CoA leadership an additional opportunity to meet previously established attendance, participation and staffing goals.
- The CoA is undergoing membership and staffing changes. It will come back in January 2014 to further discuss the future of the joint membership of the ACAC.

- B. Update on Letter of Support from the MCPD regarding the International Treaty on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Chairperson Beard reporting. (See Exhibit B).
- In 2012, the U.S. Senate failed to ratify the Treaty by six votes. (It needed 66 votes in the Senate to be approved.) (Review MCPD December 10, 2013 minutes.)
    - The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee shall re-examine this Treaty during January 2014.
    - The importance of this Treaty is that it will allow the U.S. to fully participate and share in international technological advances that support positive quality of life for persons with disabilities.
  - Chairperson Beard has drafted a letter of support that will be addressed to the U.S. Senate, Committee on Foreign Relations and the two California Senators.
  - Motion: To approve the friendly letter supporting the ratification of the International Treaty on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which shall be addressed to the U.S. Senate, Committee on Foreign Relations and the two California Senators.
  - Motion/Second: Commissioner Jacobs/Commissioner Burns
  - Motion passed by consensus.

XI. Special Order of Business: End of Year Retreat

- A. Chairperson Beard introduced the year end retreat by announcing the theme for the MCPD upcoming 2014 year, “Making a Difference”. He told the commissioners to keep the theme in mind while participating in the retreat. Chairperson Beard introduced:
- Facilitator Bill Pelter, Assistant Executive Director, Cerebral Palsy Center for the Bay Area, and former MCPD Commissioner who then led the commissioners and staff in discussion aimed at establishing a 2014 work plan.
    - Mr. Pelter started the retreat with an ice-breaker.
    - Chairperson Beard summarized the MCPD’s actions of 2013.
      - He reminded the commission about the Conditions of Approval, COA for the Bus Rapid Transit, BRT which the Commission co-authored with the ADA Programs Manager and shepherded through the Oakland City

Council. This makes A.C. Transit accountable to the disability community.

- Learned how City Council works and reached out to councilmembers and made them aware of the work of the commission. Prior to 2011, the commission had a much more quiet presence.
- The MCPD reached out to other City commissions and to the community, and outside organizations approached the MCPD for its participation in community events.
- Commissioner Beard stated that he wants the body to come out of the retreat with a stronger sense of what our role is as a commission going forward, (more than acting as an advisor to the Mayor and to the Council). What does this mean? How can MCPD make a difference?
- Mr. Pelter led the commission through listing its Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats, SWOT. After discussion and examination of its SWOTs, the Commission formulated its top goals for 2014. They are as follows:

Priorities  
(Goals, Objectives, Projects  
For 2014)

Outreach:

- Community outreach; becoming more of a household name with ‘politicos’ and other internal/external stakeholders.
- Get social media up and running.
- Become more of a channel for information for parents /families of children with disabilities with an emphasis on special education.
- Help destroy stigma surrounding mental illness (media, role modeling, jobs, etc).
- Become a force in the local disability community.
- More outreach to persons with disabilities around E-Prep.
- Form independent relationship with City’s Department of Human Services, DHS, and Education Partnership of City Council.

Employment:

- Move the bar on disability employment statistics thru our advocacy.

- Explore innovative strategies for engaging local government in employment of persons with disabilities.

Litigation Issues:

- Assist/speak out against serial litigation by Attorney Paul Rein against City.
- Reclaim MCPD/Staff discretion/time around use of ADA's staff and capital resources.

Maintain ACAC Standing Responsibilities:

- More awareness of people with disabilities on public transit.
- Improving Paratransit.

XI.B. Special Order of Business Officer Election for Calendar Year 2014; moderated by Christine Calabrese:

A. Election of Chairperson

1. Call for nominations
  - a. First call for nominations: Commissioner Stevenson nominated Commissioner Beard for Chair. Commissioner Beard accepted.
  - b. Second call for nominations (None)
  - c. Third call for nominations (None)
2. Voice vote:
  - Commissioner Beard received a unanimous vote for his election as the 2014 MCPD Chairperson.

B. Election of Vice-Chair

1. Call for nominations:
  - First call for nominations: Commissioner Scott Blanks nominated himself.
  - Second call for nominations: Commissioner Rosenblatt nominated Commissioner Jacobson, who did not accept.
  - Third call for nominations. Commissioner Jacobson nominated Commissioner Fatima Simmons, who did not accept.
2. Voice vote.

- Commissioner Blanks received: 11 ayes, 1 abstention, Commissioner Rosenblatt.

B. Meeting Evaluation

- Chairperson Beard expressed appreciation on behalf of the MCPD to Commissioner Jacobson for her outstanding work as Vice-chairperson for the calendar year 2013.
  - Commissioner Jacobson expressed her gratitude to the MCPD. She deeply appreciated serving as Vice-chairperson for the commission.
- Ms. Calabrese reported that the retreat was extremely successful and that all commissioners' participation was extremely impressive.
- All commissioners expressed their satisfaction with the retreat processes.

C. Agenda Items for Next Meeting


XV. Adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

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NOTE: THE COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM  
ON THE AGENDA

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Public Comments: To offer public comments at the MCPD meeting, please register with Adriana Mitchell, ADA Programs Assistant, before the start of the meeting. Public Comments is one of the first agenda items therefore, please, arrive by 12:45 p.m. Please note that the MCPD will not provide a detailed response to your comments but may schedule your issue for a future MCPD or committee meeting. The Public Comment period is limited to 15 minutes and each individual speaker is limited to 5 minutes. If more than 3 public speakers register, however, then each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes. If more than 5 public speakers register, then each speaker will be limited to 2 minutes. Exceptions to these rules may be granted at the discretion of the Chairperson.

 This meeting is wheelchair accessible. To request materials in alternative formats, or to request an ASL interpreter, captioning or assistive listening device, please call Adriana Mitchell 238-5219 (V) or 238-2007 (TTY) at least three, 3, business days before the meeting. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting so persons who may experience chemical sensitivities can attend. Thank you.