



Commission on Disability
AGENDA
Regular Meeting

Commission on Disability

Wednesday

City of Berkeley Corporation Yard

5/01/2019

1326 Allston Way

6:30 PM

Willow Room

Berkeley, CA 94702

A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

- 1) Call to Order by Chair Ghenis
- 2) Roll Call by Secretary
- 3) Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda. (Up to 3 minutes per speaker)
- 4) Approval of Draft Action Minutes of March 6, 2018***
Regular Meeting and Draft Action Minutes of April 3, 2018 Regular Meeting.*
- 5) Staff Update.
- 6) Approval and Order of Agenda

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

The public may speak at the beginning of any item.
(Comments may be limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

Commission will take a 5 minute break around 8pm

1. Secretary issues and accessibility concerns.

Clarify that all concerns have been addressed; note if there are any ongoing barriers, and what barriers are; progress as needed (5 minutes / Ghenis)

2. Navigable Cities Informational Report to Council.

Discuss and review report. (20 minutes / Ghenis)*

3. Town Hall. Discussion and Selection of date. (5 minutes / Ghenis)

4. Homeless Concerns - Access to electric charging facilities for wheelchairs. Discuss information that has been collected and explore future course-of-action. (10 minutes / Ghenis)

5. Homeless Concerns - RV Parking. (10 minutes / Smith)

6. Discussion on changes to PG Andy Medical Baseline Program. PG&E recently changed policies to its medical baseline program. Discuss changes, impacts, and potential courses of action. (10 minutes / Ghenis)

7. Discussion on Zero Waste Commission. Discuss how to collaborate with ZWC on any future efforts that may affect people with disabilities. A Zero Waste Commission member may attend, or Ghenis will

communicate with ZWC and report back. (10 minutes / Ghenis)

8. San Pablo Avenue Plan. An update on the planning process, and report on Feb 13 stakeholder meeting. (10 minutes / Walsh)

9. Public Outreach Informational Item Discuss and review report. (15 minutes /Ghenis)*

10. Announcements

C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE

REPORTS

1. Peace and Justice Commission Subcommittee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities- Update on activity or projects of this subcommittee since last meeting. (5 minutes / Walsh & Weiss)

D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (from adopted work plan, referrals, etc.)

Navigable Cities Items

- **Construction issues**
- **Portable signs**
- **Photo survey**

**Sidewalk discussion item
Public Outreach Informational Item
Events Calendar**

E. ADJOURNMENT: no later than 9:30pm

Agenda Posted: April 22, 2019

- * Indicates written material included in packet.
- ** Indicates material to be delivered at meeting.
- *** Indicates material previously mailed.

A complete agenda packet is available for public review on the web at:

https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/Commissions/Commissions_Commission_on_Disability_Homepage.aspx

Available also at the main library, and Public Works, Engineering Division, 1947 Center Street, 4th Floor.

ADA Disclaimer



"This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, or alternative formats, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6400 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least

three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

Communications Disclaimer

*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record.** If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information.*

Commission Secretary: Dominika Bednarska, Disability Services Specialist, 1947 Center St., 4th Floor, Berkeley, CA, 94704, Telephone (510) 981-6411, Fax: (510) 981-7060 TDD: (510) 981-6347.

Email: DBednarska@cityofberkeley.info



Commission on Disability
DRAFT Minutes
Regular Meeting

Commission on Disability

Wednesday

City of Berkeley Corporation Yard

4/03/2019

1326 Allston Way

6:30 PM

Willow Room

Berkeley, CA 94702

A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

- 1) Call to Order by Chair Ghenis at 6:50 p.m.
Introduced Dominika Bednarska as new Disability Service Specialist and new secretary.
- 2) Roll Call by Secretary Enke: Present: Weiss, Ghenis, Leeder, Smith, Ramirez, Singer; LOA: Walsh.
- 3) Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda.
None.
- 4) Distributed minutes from March 6, 2019 Regular Meeting – Commission will review & approve in upcoming May meeting.
- 5) Approval and Order of Agenda. Note to add “Staff Update” to future agendas. Motion to approve, (Singer/Leeder), all ayes.

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

The public may speak at the beginning of any item.
(Comments may be limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

Commission will take a 5 minute break around 8pm

1. Secretary issues and accessibility concerns.

Leeder commented that she did not receive a mailed copy. Staff will again confirm both email and mailing addresses.

2. IKE Smart City Kiosks. Review update and related Information Calendar item to be sent to Council. Updated report distributed and discussed at meeting. Motion to approve report and submit as informational item to Council. Weiss/Singer, all ayes.

3. Approve finalized annual work plan for 2019.

Review updated work plan (attached); discuss responsible Commissioners, timelines, etc. Ghenis provided summary of work plan and the COD discussed. Volunteers for items were: 1. Improved Transportation and Mobility - Leeder, Singer, Smith, and Ramirez; 2. Public Input and Public Outreach for COD – Ghenis, Leeder, and Ramirez; 3. Disability Access in all Berkeley Policies and Processes – Singer and Weiss; 4. Accessible and Affordable Housing – Leeder, Ramirez, and Smith; 5. Homeless People with Disabilities – Smith; 6. Emergency/Disaster Preparedness – Weiss and Smith; 7. Student Life and Disability Awareness – Ramirez; 8. Service Animals Welcome in Berkeley – Weiss. Motion to

approve annual work plan for 2019. Leeder/Smith, all ayes.

4. Discussion on access to electric charging facilities for wheelchairs. Public comment from Stacey Hill and Yesica Prado regarding the issues with access to charging facilities for wheelchairs. Item was discussed as possible future action item. No action taken.

5. RV Parking. Report on discussions with Golden Gate Fields regarding use of their parking lots, etc. Public comment from Stacey Hill and Yesica Prado regarding recent council item on proposed parking restrictions and its impact on the disabled homeless community. Smith provided update on Golden Gate Fields: 1. Fields are private property, 2. Harness racing is conflict, and 3. Sewage disposal is issue. Commission discussed. No action taken.

6. Discussion on Zero Waste Commission. Discuss how to collaborate with ZWC on any future efforts that may affect people with disabilities. A Zero Waste Commission member may attend, or Ghenis will communicate with ZWC and report back. No discussion this meeting.

7. San Pablo Avenue Plan. An update on the planning process, and report on Feb 13 stakeholder meeting. No discussion this meeting (Walsh on LOA).

8. Navigable Cities. Discuss main items to be addressed

in this effort. Ghenis provided summary of plan and the COD discussed the plan. Items discussed included barriers/signs, sidewalk construction zones, sidewalk repairs, tree damage, BART elevators, electrical plug access, photo survey of barriers, bio-swales and planters, bicyclists on sidewalk – small stencil at Milvia and Addison. Motion to adopt the 2019 Navigable Cities Action plan. Leeder/Weiss, all ayes.

9. Announcements: Ghenis: TNC – Access for all – surcharge for Uber/Lyft for ADA accessible vehicles and SB50, relates to housing near transit. Weiss: Capital Action Day in Sacramento on 4/8, Congresswoman Waters introduced bill to end homeless, Walk MS 2019 fund raiser on 4/13 in San Francisco at Yak Store.

C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE

REPORTS

1. Peace and Justice Commission Subcommittee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities- Update on activity or projects of this subcommittee since last meeting. Weiss: CRPD's second annual Berkeley forum on access and disability rights at Ed Roberts on May 8, 3 to 5pm. Subcommittee meeting this Friday, 3 to 5 p.m. at 2180 Milvia.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- **Homeless concerns - RV Parking and**

Charging

- **San Pablo Avenue Plan**
- **Navigable Cities Informational Item (Singer)**
 - **Construction issues (Leeder)**
 - **Portable signs (Singer)**
 - **Photo survey (Weiss)**
 - **Portable Signs (Singer)**
- **Sidewalk discussion item**
- **Public Outreach Informational Item (Ghenis)**
- **Town Hall selection of date**
- **Events Calendar – add to future agendas?**

E. ADJOURNMENT: 9:29 p.m. (Leeder/Smith) all ayes.

Agenda Posted: March 21, 2019


- * Indicates written material included in packet.
- ** Indicates material to be delivered at meeting.
- *** Indicates material previously mailed.

A complete agenda packet is available for public review on the web at:

<https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/Commissions/Commissions Commission on Disability Homepage.aspx>

Available also at the main library, and Public Works, Engineering Division, 1947 Center Street, 4th Floor.

ADA Disclaimer

 *“This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, or alternative formats, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6400 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.*

Communications Disclaimer

*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City’s electronic records, which are accessible through the City’s website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record.** If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board,*

commission or committee for further information.

Commission Secretary: Dominika Bednarska, Disability Service Specialist, 1947 Center St., 4th Floor, Berkeley, CA, 94704, Telephone (510) 981-6411, Fax: (510) 981-7060 TDD: (510) 981-6347.

Email: DBednarska@cityofberkeley.info



Commission on Disability

INFORMATION CALENDAR

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Commission on Disability
Submitted by: Alex Ghenis, Chairperson, Commission on Disability
Subject: Proposed “navigable cities” framework for ensuring access and freedom-of-movement for people with disabilities in Berkeley.

INTRODUCTION

The Commission on Disability recently agreed upon a series of priorities for 2019 and early 2020. One of these priorities is a proposed “Navigable Cities” framework to guide investments, regulations, and other actions in the City of Berkeley. An initial Navigable Cities framework was approved by the Commission in its meeting on April 3, 2019. The framework features three (3) Principles of Navigable Cities and four (4) initiatives that the Commission on Disability will pursue throughout 2019. The full Navigable Cities outline is attached to this informational item.

The Commission on Disability requests that the City Council review and support the Navigable City framework, principals and initiatives. The Commission will provide updates to the City Council on progress moving forward, including any information discovered by the Commission, proposed action items for the City Council, etc.

The full principles and initiatives of Navigable Cities are featured in the attached document. They are summarized here:

Principles:

1. All people residing in and/or visiting the City of Berkeley have the right to efficient, convenient and barrier-free movement.
2. People with disabilities (PWDs) often have distinct transportation-related needs and may be less able to navigate around items obstructing pathways.
3. Changes to commercial activities and government policies (whether in Berkeley, the Bay Area, the State of California, or the United States as a whole) can have notable impacts on navigability.

Initiatives:

1. Support smooth, barrier-free pathways frequently used by PWDs.
2. Ensure that new transportation services provide appropriate access to PWDs and do not negatively impact navigability.
3. Provide appropriate input on plans to adjust the layout of neighborhoods, urban centers, streets, pathways, etc.
4. Address the availability and accessibility of appropriate parking options, especially in city-owned and/or city-maintained parking lots/garages.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City of Berkeley contains hundreds of miles of streets, sidewalks and other public spaces (e.g. outdoor plazas and parks).

Many streets, sidewalks, bicycle pathways and other public spaces do not provide smooth navigation for people with disabilities (PWDs), who collectively represent around 15% of the City's residents and visitors. In addition, Berkeley features many transportation options including pedestrian and bicycle pathways, BART, buses, paratransit, nonprofit transportation services, transportation network companies (TNCs, e.g. Uber & Lyft), bike-sharing services, etc.; however, not all of these provide full access to people with disabilities, endangering independence and potentially violating civil rights. Examples of inaccessibility include:

- Not all sidewalks feature “curb cuts” at intersections, meaning that individuals using wheelchairs or scooters must essentially take detours – either a full block, or to a nearby driveway. Exiting through driveways may present dangers, such as a lack of visibility to oncoming cars.
- Many sidewalks are excessively uneven, for example as tree roots push soils upward and displace sections of sidewalk. The exact nature of sidewalk damage varies across the City – some feature clear vertical breaks between sidewalk segments, while some sidewalks have “bumps” and cracks.
- Construction of new buildings and maintenance to pathways blocks sidewalks, forcing individuals to use designated temporary pathways or cross streets entirely. Certain pathways do not feature appropriate accessibility – such as ramps from sidewalks to street-level pathways – or are otherwise difficult to navigate.
- “Shared mobility” services – e.g. ride-sharing and shared bicycles (Ford Go-Bike, etc.) – do not always feature fully-accessible products and services. For example, TNCs have only recently introduced wheelchair-accessible vehicles,

which still feature delays compared to TNCs' regular time frames. Bike-sharing services do not provide alternative, accessible options for individuals with limited balance who could otherwise ride tricycles. Proposed motorized scooters likewise do not provide accessible options, and scooter-riders on sidewalks present dangers to many PWDs.

- Items which are present in the middle of sidewalks and other public spaces may pose barriers to some PWDs; these items include the large sign downtown announcing BART and bus schedules, as well as informational kiosks being explored by City Council and staff. Barriers are of particular concern to individuals who are blind or low-vision and have become familiar with Berkeley's pathways without obstacles.

These items and more represent ongoing barriers and progressing problems for PWDs in Berkeley. The Commission on Disability is concerned by a lack of accessibility, in general and especially considering Berkeley's identity as the home of the modern disability rights movement.

BACKGROUND

None noted, aside from the information above.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Commission on Disability believes that pursuing a Navigable Cities framework will present opportunities to improve environmental sustainability. For example, more easily navigable pedestrian pathways and accessible alternatives to shared bicycles will enable PWDs to reduce reliance on personally-operated vehicles and related carbon emissions. The Commission will consider sustainability in its Navigable Cities initiatives.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

unknown

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

unknown

CONTACT PERSON

Dominika Bednarska, Disability Services Specialist
(510) 981-6418



Commission on Disability

INFORMATION CALENDAR

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Commission on Disability

Submitted by: Alex Ghenis, Chairperson, Commission on
Disability

Subject: 2019 Public Outreach efforts of COD.

INTRODUCTION

The Commission on Disability (COD) is pursuing actions to increase its public outreach through 2019 and beyond. COD will be inviting interested stakeholders to attend our meetings and will attend other Commission meetings to better address the concerns and needs of people with disabilities in Berkeley. In addition, we are interested in hosting or otherwise supporting a disability “town hall” sometime in 2019, to feature opportunities for Berkeley’s residents to explore concerns, policy solutions, and courses of action.

The Commission on Disability would appreciate the City Council’s assistance in this effort, to whatever extent is appropriate. If Council-members are aware of any stakeholders (individuals or groups) who are interested in topics relevant to people with disabilities (PWDs), are addressing topics that should better address the needs of PWDs, or may otherwise want to connect with COD, please ask them to contact the Commission’s

secretary. COD will also inform Council of any upcoming actions or events related to its Public Outreach.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

None noted.

BACKGROUND

None noted.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Unknown

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

unknown

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

unknown

CONTACT PERSON

Dominika Bednarska, Disability Services Specialist
(510) 981-6418