CITY OF DENTON
COMMITTEE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MINUTES
December 19, 2019

After determining that a quorum was present, the Committee on Persons with Disabilities of the City of Denton, Texas convened in a meeting on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Work Session room at 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Val Vera, Tammera Beckham, Beth Haswell-Kirkby, Joe Rivas, Sonia Redwine, Judy Thurmond, Alison Kelly, Rex King, Val Morgan, and Sally Austin,

ABSENT: Jessica Spears Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Marc Oliphant, Stuart Birdseye, Becky Owens, Catherine Clifton, and Michael Penaluna

1. PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Beth Haswell-Kirkby spoke as a citizen regarding her neighborhood, Idiot's Hill and the work being done on Wilson Elementary. Wanted to express concern that the neighborhood was not given enough notice, not given time for feedback, and it is going to cause visibility and traffic issues. It is going to be an inconvenience to the disabled in the neighborhood. Would like better communication between other committees.

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. CPD19-048 Consider the approval of the meeting minutes of November 21, 2019

Haswell-Kirby motioned and Redwine seconded to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

B. CPD19-051 Receive a report and hold a discussion about the committee purpose, use of parliamentary procedure and professionalism as a committee.

Oliphant presented a reminder about the expectations of all committee members to have an effective committee and professional meeting. It was further noted the meeting is now broadcast live to the community and recorded for perpetuity. Commissioners represent the broader community and may have divergent opinions. Adhering to parliamentary procedure helps ensure all members are heard and given an opportunity to express their opinions from the perspective of all persons with disabilities and not just their own experience.

C. CPD19-053 Receive a report, hold a discussion and give staff input about the City of Denton's Emergency Management Program.

Penaluna gave a presentation on the City's Office of Emergency Management including the emergency plans, disaster preparedness training, conducting drills and exercises and participation in public education programs.

Information on how to register with the City's Code Red system was provide by visiting www.cityofdenton.com and clicking on the code RED link.

The City has 16 outdoor warning sirens used to alert citizens of impending emergencies, including severe weather outdoor warning siren test is the first Wednesday of every month. The City is partnered with KNTU 88.1 FM for information when the sirens are sounded for more information on the warning.

The Regional Public Education Project website address is www.KnoWhat2do.com to development a personal emergency preparedness plan.

The City offers a free telephone radar app called CASA Alerts for severe weather notifications.

The City also conducts drills and exercises, participates in public education programs and what-if situation planning exercises.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a nationwide program with about 500 volunteers registered through Denton County Emergency Services. The County also heads of the Medical Reserve Core and the Red Cross also uses volunteers in case shelter accommodations are needed. Anyone can volunteer.

D. CPD19-055 Carly Weld, Program & Volunteer Coordinator for Keep Denton Beautiful shared a report and presentation about volunteer opportunities at Keep Denton Beautiful (KDB). The opportunities cover a wide range of activities and citizens with different interests and abilities. The group currently has approximately 6,000 volunteers who contribute over 16,000 hours of service. Upcoming events include the Great American Cleanup along with garden work days in February, March and April.

E. CPD19-050 Staff Reports

1. Marc Oliphant provided a staff update regarding ongoing efforts of the committee.

   Comments and general feedback were received from the committee on the all walk pedestrian phase signal operation around the square. This item was for update only. The question of having an initial pedestrian delay on every signalized cross walk will be relayed to the Traffic Engineering Department for future report.

   In follow-up to the VeoRide bike share presentation, the issue of having bicycles parked in the right-of-way and the increased ridership with the start of the school year. It was reported they have a larger pick-up service vehicle to stay on top of their equipment and reminders have been added to their landing page for each user event.

They have a one minute long video intro to the service and not blocking sidewalks, entries etc.

The City's manual for boards, commissions and committees there is some language about using video conferencing. Conversations have been held with both the Audio Visual and Legal Departments about the feasibility of doing this. Under the current contract we have for this audio visual service, it is just not technically possible at the moment. The issue that we are dealing with is not a matter of City policy, it is a matter of state law as it pertains to open meetings and the ability of the public to be able to attend public meetings. The capabilities of technology to satisfy the requirement of the Open Meetings Act is the present limitation.

2. Items for Future Consideration

Proposed topics for the January meeting were reviewed with a brief description of the proposed subject.

One item was previously discussed was brought back to the attention of the committee and staff. The request to set up a work session with Melissa Jimenez from Therapeutic Recreation.

Follow-up was requested on the closed captioning during the live meeting. Right now we have it on the U-Tube channel the day after due to funding. A meeting with the Assistant City Manager is scheduled for tomorrow and staff will revisit that topic for advice.

The very first introduction of the mobility plan to the City Council. In January, we're going to be discussion the mobility plan which includes a thoroughfare plan, bicycle plan, and pedestrian plan. The pedestrian plan will look at non-existent infrastructure that needs to be built. The ADA transition plan is all about the condition of current facilities. Those two will work off each other.

The Annual Point in Time Count is coming up in January. Information on participation or volunteer opportunities was requested.

An evaluation of the locations of the cross walk signal request devices for persons using wheel chairs or mobility devices, more specifically connective pavement, ramps, height placement for travel path movements for functionality.

Bus stops are still a focal point for this committee, however as discussed at a previous meeting, there are many different factors for service and connectivity to be addressed and coordinated between the City and DCTA. A meeting agenda topic will be formulated for future presentation.

A request to have MHMR share information about their services. In addition how DCTA can work with MHMR on transportation needs.

Rayzor Ranch and connections to and from University is getting communicated and is a bullet point for City Council consideration. A request was made to receive information on the future development plans and connectivity for accessibility.

Upcoming Events:

January Committee Meeting: Thursday the 16th at 6pm.

3. CONCLUDING ITEMS

Committee members expressed items of interest for future meetings. Staff to provide list of items on meeting matrix for future meeting topics and new business items requested.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

VAL VERA
CHAIR
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

BECKY OWENS
RECORDING SECRETARY
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

MINUTES APPROVED ON: February 20, 2020