

Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities Committee

Minutes

Zoom Remote Meeting Hosted in Tacoma, WA 98402

Friday, June 12, 2020

4:00 PM

- Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.
- Commissioners Present** Luke Byram, Rebecca Parson, Krystal Monteros, Lukas Barfield, Dylan O’Catherine, James Williams, Richard Smaby and Todd Holloway
- Commissioners Absent** **Anthony Caldwell, Robert Hersey**
- City Staff Present** Lucas Smiraldo, Mia Navarro
- Guests Present** Julian Wheeler, PCHS,
- Adoption of Agenda** A motion was made by commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner O’Catherine, and carried to accept the COD meeting agenda of June 12, 2020.
- Acceptance of Minutes** A motion was made by Commissioner Williams. Seconded by Commissioner Byram, and carried to accept the COD meeting minutes of April, 2020.
- Commissioners took turns checking in and shared challenges including feeling isolated at times during the pandemic.
- Public Comment** There was no public comment.
- New Business** None
- Guest Presenter** None
- Reports** Todd Holloway shared his pride in the commission as an avenue to express the needs of people with disabilities and has been encouraging other jurisdictions to adopt a commission. He referenced the recent voting access meeting presented by the County Auditor and attendance and support form commissioners. He spoke about the importance of building emergency plans into public gatherings such as civil protests to protect people who are protesting and have a plan in place should a natural disaster occur at that moment. Finally, the chair discussed planning around co-occurring disasters.
- Reports** Lucas Smiraldo offered the liaison report which included the following:
1. TACOD recommendations have been forwarded to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the commission awaits their response.
 2. The commission has encouraged moving forward with paying for an accessible taxi feasibility study.

3. The commission will pursue a joint committee with Tacoma School District to explore accommodation planning for students with disabilities during the COVID emergency and in a time of remote learning. Mr. Smiraldo will work with Ms. O’Catherine on that committee development.
4. TACOD will retain remote meeting as a priority for the foreseeable future and will encourage other commissions to offer that accessibility as well.
5. The liaison report included the concerns around people in prisons and the health risks posed to them and the public in the absence of social distancing and other safety measures.
6. The liaison offered a recent update on the status of the Manuel Ellis investigation and other commissioners responded with deep concerns around the circumstances of Mr. Ellis death. One commissioner questioned why black and brown people who are victimized by law enforcement have their credibility questioned around drug use and the same standard is not used when assessing white victims.
7. Mr. Smiraldo announced the names of two winners of the City of Destiny Disability Awards and encouraged commissioners to attend the upcoming remote event.
8. Commissioners all support the idea of naming the Individual award after Lori Allison who recently passed away and was a long standing member of TACOD.
9. Julian Wheeler offered a short report to discuss the upcoming celebration of the 30th anniversary of the ADA act on Tuesday, July 14th.

Subcommittee Reports: Mr. Barfield has agreed to join the website accessibility committee.

Commissioner Williams recognized the work of the National Longshoremen who will have a work stoppage or 8 minutes and 46 seconds in memory of the killing of George Floyd and also the general strike on June 19th in honor of Mr. Floyd.

Commissioner Monteros expressed deep concerns around a friend who resides at Stafford Creek who was moved there two years ago to address bed sores and still has not received treatment and continues to have open wounds. She discussed the need for advocacy and system changes to prevent people under nursing care from being neglected as her friend has been.

Mr. Smiraldo invited every commissioner to reach out to another to break through the isolation that many are feeling and will share a list with contact information the following week.

Commissioner Holloway ask for a motion to close the meeting which was offered by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Monteros. The motion passed and the meeting closed at 5:56 PM.

Next meeting will be held on Friday July 9, 2020 at the usual time of 4 PM on a remote platform.

Adjournment