

Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities Committee

Minutes

Zoom Remote Meeting Hosted in Tacoma, WA 98402

Friday, August 14, 2020

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.
Commissioners Present	Luke Byram, Krystal Monteros, Lukas Barfield, Dylan O’Catherine, James Williams, Richard Smaby Todd Holloway and Anthony Caldwell Rebecca Parson
Commissioners Absent	None
City Staff Present	Lucas Smiraldo, Nick Bayard
Guests Present	Julian Wheeler, PCAC, Janine Robinson, Pierce Transit
Adoption of Agenda	A motion was made by commissioner Byram and seconded by Commissioner Smaby and carried to accept the COD meeting agenda of August 14, 2020.
Acceptance of Minutes	<p>A motion was made by commissioner Byram seconded by Commissioner Barfield and carried to accept the COD meeting minutes of July, 2020.</p> <p>Commissioners took turns checking in sharing who would be their first guest if they hosted a talk show.</p>
Public Comment	There was no public comment.
<i>New Business</i>	None.
<i>Guest Presenter</i>	Janine Robinson
<i>Reports</i>	<p>Vice Chair Monteros visited several topics in his report including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Her work on with Disabilities Rights Washington and Rooted in Rights to establish more accessibility at the Pierce annex and Ms. Monteros subsequent feature in King 5 News to tell the larger story2. Sidewalks and better access for folks in wheelchairs will be in place before the election day on November 2nd. More needs to be done to address hills that make travel difficult for those in non powered chairs.
<i>Guest Presentation</i>	<p>Janine Robinson from Pierce Transit offered a presentation with drawings to illustrate the proposed changes to Theater Square Park. Among those changes would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elimination of the “waterwall” between Commerce and Broadway along with planters and foliage.• Replacing ramp with stairs and outside elevator.• Potential housing, and elevating seating and stage.• Potential business spaces built in place of the wall.

At the conclusion of the report Commissioners, followed by City staff offered recommendations as follows

1. Enable people with disabilities to help with design ideas from the outset with Transit projects.
 2. Require design group to come before TACOD for comment and input in advance of sending designs out for bids
 3. Establish plans that are designed for full crowds but also for pandemic conditions where social distancing options are built into the design.
 4. When planning for housing, built affordable housing options into the plan
 5. Consider BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) perspectives and include them in planning any community based space. The plan for pickle ball courts and yoga spaces may appeal to white communities but may not reflect the potential priorities and desires of other communities who value other forms of community gathering and recreation,
- Vice Chair Monteros shared more about the King 5 story and also reported that she and colleagues have built the momentum into an investigation around the shooting death of a disabled man of color, Malik Williams at the hands of Federal Way police.
 - Commissioner Monteros has joined the board of Center for Independence and is doing work there.

Reports

Lucas Smiraldo offered the liaison report which included the following:

1. The Council Action Memo is now moving forward through Deputy Mayor Blocker to fund a feasibility study for accessible taxi in the city. The request could come forward as early as August 25th.
2. The plan is moving forward to form an advisory group on accessibility led by youth commissioner Dylan O'Catherine. The group will have room for three additional commissioners along with school district staff. The intent is for this to be youth led group and Commissioner O'Catherine will invite both high school and middle school students.
3. Several members encouraged the participation of siblings of youth with disabilities including Vice Chair Monteros who had a sibling that supported her growing up.
4. A CAM from TACOD will be generated to encourage the city to ask all Commissions, Boards and Committees to offer remote access moving forward.
5. Mr. Smiraldo then referenced the draft support letter written by Commissioner Byram on behalf of the chair and vice chair encouraging the city to reconsider eliminating the positions of housing and employment discrimination investigators housed at OEHR. Commissioners were in strong and unanimous agreement and indicated that the positions were essential during a time where the Voting Rights Act has been rescinded and acts of discrimination are frequent.
6. Commissioner Byram added that the need to investigate accommodation complaints is important and the loss of these positions could extend investigations from weeks to many months.
7. Commissioner Parson moved to support the letter and Williams seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Julian Wheeler of PCAC offered a short report. Pierce County Accessible Community

is seeking new members. They will participate in a celebration of the success at the Pierce County Annex on August 18th and will have their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 8th at 9 AM.

Todd Holloway will submit his Emergency Management Report in Person.

Mr, Caldwell will seek input and participation from Neighborhood Councils to represent people with disabilities for public works projects.

Adjournment

James Williams made a motion to adjourn and Tony Caldwell seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting concluded at 5:55 PM

The next meeting will be held at its regular time on Friday, September 11th.