



Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes

www.scccod.net

DATE: Thursday, May 11, 2023
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Remote Meeting
PRESENT: John Daugherty (1st District), Rebecca Haifley (1st District), Stacie Grijalva (2nd District), Fay Levinson (2nd District), Becky Taylor (3rd District), Charlie Rous (3rd District), Brenda Gutierrez Baeza (Vice Chair - 4th District), David Molina (Chair - 5th District),
EXCUSED: Riley Hartmann (5th District)
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Manager)
GUESTS: 2 members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order

Meeting convened at 12:35 PM.

Commission welcomed new District 3 Commissioner Charlie Rous.

2. Roll Call

3. Agenda Review

4. Approve April 13, 2023 Minutes

Motion to Approve Minutes As Written

Motion/Second: Taylor/Haifley

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comment

Daugherty arrived.

6. New/Continuing Business:

7.1. Strategic Action Plan Review/Revise

Commission considered their 2023 Strategic Action Plan and made the following revisions:

- Incorporate Objective 3 into Objective 1 action items
- Revise Objective 3 to reflect "Evaluate services provided to persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County and advocate as appropriate" with action items that reflect monitoring housing, transportation, recreation and accessibility.
- Add the following action item to Objective 4: Collaborate with other County advisory bodies to advance the interests of people with disabilities.

Motion to establish the Collaboration Ad Hoc Subcommittee to research opportunities and recommend collaborative projects to the Commission.

Motion/Second: Taylor/Rous

Motion passed unanimously.

Molina appointed Taylor and Rous to the Collaboration Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Molina appointed Rous to the Legislative Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

8. Commission Reports:

8.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report:

Gutierrez Baeza reported that 1K students are currently receiving services through the accessibility center and the advisory committee is developing recommendations to make the new student experience more accessible and promote their awareness of center services.

8.2. Housing Element Community Stakeholder Group Report:

Haifley reported that there will be a final stakeholder meeting to share outcomes and takeaways. Although 80% of the new housing units required by the state during the last 8-year cycle received permits, most were either high income or very low-income units. How much of that new housing is required to be ADA-accessible or universal design has yet to be determined. Commissioners are encouraged to attend community meetings to provide feedback and advocate for required ADA-accessible housing units in affordable housing developments permitted by the County .

9. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Updates:

9.1. Recreation Subcommittee:

Molina expressed his concerns about the sustainability of the adaptive swim program in its current form. Staff will contact program leadership to get a status update. Gutierrez-Baeza requested that members of the Accessibility Awareness ad hoc subcommittee staff a table at the June 17th Wheelchair Basketball Camp. The Commission will consider a letter of support for the Jade Street accessible playground project at the next meeting.

9.2. Legislative Subcommittee:

The subcommittee met in May and continues to research legislative priorities that have been vetted by established organizations who advocate on behalf of seniors and people with disabilities.

9.3. History Project Report

Staff reported that intern Collin Edwards continues his research and analysis of archival records. Daugherty is considering the scope of his role on the project.

10. Staff Report:

Staff reported that County Counsel's most recent directive regarding allowable activities is to ensure that all activities fall within the mandated powers and duties or bylaws of the Commission, rather than attempting to define "direct advocacy". Under this directive, this Commission's mandated powers and duties allow for greater leeway in terms of allowable activities because of their mandate to "Exercise other responsibilities related to the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities in the County" (SCCC Chapter 2.72.060(K)). Commissioners are encouraged to attend upcoming "A Santa Cruz County Like Me" community workshops to advocate for greater representation of people with disabilities on County advisory bodies.

11. Emerging Matters:

Levinson requested that Commissioners be given parking permits for Commission meetings. Staff advised that two hours of free parking is available, and Commissioners can purchase additional time if needed. Gutierrez Baeza encouraged Commissioners to participate in the CARES Justice survey.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:02 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*