



# Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

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## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, November 9, 2023  
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM  
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Fifth Floor – Redwood Conference Room  
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
PRESENT: John Daugherty (1<sup>st</sup> District), Rebecca Haifley (1<sup>st</sup> District), Stacie Grijalva (2<sup>nd</sup> District),  
Fay Levinson (2<sup>nd</sup> District), Becky Taylor (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Brenda Gutierrez Baeza (Vice Chair -  
4<sup>th</sup> District), David Molina (Chair - 5<sup>th</sup> District),  
EXCUSED: None  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Manager)  
GUESTS: 3 members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order  
Meeting convened at 12:34 PM.
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Approve October 12, 2023 Minutes  
**Motion to Approve Minutes As Written**  
Motion/Second: Molina/Haifley  
**Motion passed unanimously.**
5. Public Comment
6. New/Continuing Business:
  - 6.1. Consider Advocacy Letter to the Board Regarding ADA-Accessible Beach Mats  
Commission reviewed a letter to the Board advocating for their funding and support for the installation of ADA-accessible beach mats on County beaches.  
**Motion to send the advocacy letter to the Board as written**  
Motion/Second: Daugherty/Gutierrez Baeza  
**Motion passed unanimously.**
  - 6.2. Consider advocating with the Board for the Continuation of the Commission as a Distinct Advisory Body  
Commission discussed the recent presentation to the Board on the ASSCLM project findings. In January, the Board will hear recommendations on how best to streamline the County's Commission structure, including potentially dissolving, combining or in some other way reducing the number of advisory bodies.  
**Motion authorizing Chairs to draft and send a letter to the Board advocating for the continuation of the Commission as a distinct advisory body**  
Motion/Second: Daugherty/Levinson  
**Motion passed unanimously.**

7. Commission Reports

7.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report:  
Gutierrez Baeza will report on the December meeting in January.

7.2. Housing Element Community Stakeholder Group Final Report: None

8. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports:

8.1. Accessibility Awareness Priority Report: No Report

8.2. Accessible Adaptive Recreation Priority Report

Gutierrez Baeza reported that the Treasure Cove Adaptive Playground design was revealed at the Adaptive Family Fall Festival at Jade Street Park. Molina reported that County Parks will not be providing programming at the Siltanen pool because of funding and staffing issues though the project may be revisited. Levinson reported that a Coastal Commission representative encouraged Commission to advocate for reopening the Rio Del Mar beach access pathways.

8.3. Commission History Subcommittee Report:

Staff reported that the research intern had identified specific eras with specific events in each era and is working on design elements. Several key Commissioners who had a significant role in the Commission's impact will be featured.

8.4. Community Partner Collaboration Report: No Report

8.5. Legislative Priority Report: No Report

8.6. Affordable Accessible Housing Report

Levinson attended a County affordable housing presentation and followed up with Supervisor Friend to find out what percentage of the approximately 4600 proposed affordable housing units will be required to be ADA-accessible. Molina would like Planning to give the Commission an overview on how the affordable housing planning process works, including ADA-accommodation requirements, ratio of rentals vs. homes for purchase, etc..

8.7. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report:

Staff left a message for Michael Tree to try and get the proposed meeting back on track. Grijalva mentioned that the number of available drivers is being reduced and shared anecdotal stories of service concerns.

9. Staff Report: None

10. Announcements/Emerging Matters

Daugherty requested that an item be placed on the January agenda regarding a potential loss of affordable accessible because the St. George Housing (120 units) may be losing most of their funding and rents may be increased to "market rate". Molina requested that Daugherty research the matter further before bringing it back to the Commission with supporting details.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*