



# Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711  
[commissions@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:commissions@santacruzcountyca.gov)

[www.sccod.net](http://www.sccod.net)

## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, May 9, 2024  
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*), Camille Summers (*1<sup>st</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*), Mitsuno Baurmeister (*EEO Officer*)  
GUESTS: Sarah Shea (Parks Superintendent) and no members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order  
Meeting convened at 12:31 PM.
2. Roll Call  
Commission welcomed new District 1 Commissioner, Camille Summers.
3. Agenda Review
4. Approve November 9, 2023 Minutes  
**Motion to approve minutes as written**  
Motion/Second: Molina/Daugherty  
**Motion passed unanimously.**
5. Public Comment: None
6. New/Continuing Business:
  - 6.1. Santa Cruz County Parks Accessibility Updates  
Shea updated on Parks' efforts to make spaces and activities more accessible. Key efforts include offering including a page specific to accessibility features in the activity guide, adding low-stimulus swim hours, and facility accessibility upgrades with increased mobility equipment, handrails, more accessible changing rooms, chairs, tables, and supplies like calming headphones. A San Andreas Regional Center (SARC) grant helped to create supportive spaces and provide *Swim Angelfish Adaptive Swim Training* for staff to aid swimmers with disabilities. They hope to train all staff within three years, subject to certified staffing availability.  
Additionally, Parks collaborated with the *National Inclusion Project* (NIP) for comprehensive assessments and training. They also partnered with Shared Adventures who sponsor low stimulation swim hours and are considering becoming a vendor for SARC safety training.
  - 6.2. Commissioner Stipends and Other Changes to Santa Cruz County Code Chapter 2.38  
Staff reported on recent amendments to the county code governing advisory bodies including availability of Commissioner stipends, potential for Commission Co-Chairs, term limits for Commission Officers, and a new requirement to approve Commission schedules in advance.
  - 6.3. Consider Establishing Commission Co-Chair or Retaining Chair and Vice Chair Roles  
Commission considered transitioning from Chair and Vice Chair to two Co-Chair roles.

**Motion to eliminate Chair/Vice Chair roles in favor of two Co-Chairs**

Motion/Second: Molina/Gutierrez Baeza

**Motion passed unanimously.**

6.4. Election of Commission Officers

**Motion to elect Daugherty and Taylor to serve as Commission Co-Chairs.**

Motion/Second: Levinson/Molina

**Motion passed unanimously.**

6.5. Consider 2025 Meeting Schedule

**Motion to approve 2025 Meeting Schedule.**

Motion/Second: Molina/Daugherty

**Motion passed unanimously.**

6.6. Review Strategic Plan and Consider Establishing Ad Hoc Subcommittees for 2024

Commission reviewed the existing Strategic Plan and discussed potential projects. Kudos Awards planning was pended until February 2025. Transportation and Housing subcommittees will be considered during meetings with related presenters from county partners.

**Motion to establish the Community Partner Collaboration Subcommittee**

Motion/Second: Molina/Daugherty

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Molina appointed himself and Taylor to serve on this subcommittee.

7. Commission Reports

7.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report: No Report

8. Commission Priority Reports:

8.1. Accessibility Awareness Priority Report: No Report

8.2. Accessible Adaptive Recreation Priority Report

Gutierrez Baeza and Levinson reported on several events including a water wheelchair ribbon cutting, beach mats at Cowell's Beach, the Antonelli Park accessible trail opening, Rio Del Mar accessible beach access, a wheelchair basketball tournament, and accessible bathrooms at Hidden Beach County Park.

8.3. Commission History Subcommittee Report: No Report

8.4. Community Partner Collaboration Report: No Report

8.5. Legislative Priority Report: No Report

8.6. Affordable Accessible Housing Report

Daugherty shared information about rent increases to market rates at the St. George which will impact 71 residents including the 5 ADA-accessible units. This matter is outside of the Commission's subject matter jurisdiction.

8.7. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report:

Daugherty shared about the retirement of former Director Michael Tree. Staff will invite speakers from both LiftLine/Community Bridges and METRO/Paracruz to a future meeting.

9. Staff Report: None

10. Announcements/Emerging Matters

Molina was appointed Chair of the *Northern California Office of Administrative Hearings Special Education Advisory Committee* (OAHSEAC).

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*