



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
www.scccod.net

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

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

****As a courtesy to those who are affected, kindly attend the meeting *scent-free* and *smoke-free*.****

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Approve *October 12, 2023 Minutes*
5. Public Comment: *Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed three minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission.*
6. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:
 - 6.1. Consider Advocacy Letter to the Board Regarding ADA-Accessible Beach Mats
 - 6.2. Consider Advocating with the Board for the Continuation of the Commission as a Distinct Advisory Body
7. Commission Reports
 - 7.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report
8. Commission Priority Reports
 - 8.1. Accessibility Awareness Report
 - 8.2. Accessible Recreation Report
 - 8.3. Commission History Project Report
 - 8.4. Community Partner Collaboration Priority Report
 - 8.5. Legislative Priorities Report
 - 8.6. Affordable Accessible Housing Report
 - 8.7. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report
9. Staff Report
10. Announcements/Emerging Matters
11. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, January 11, 2024 from 12:30 – 2:00 PM

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact 454-2772 or TDD/711 at least 72 hours in advance to make arrangements.



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Meeting Minutes

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

1. Call to Order

Meeting convened at 12:36 PM.

2. Roll Call

3. Agenda Review

4. Approve August 10, 2023 Minutes

Motion to Approve Minutes As Written

Motion/Second: Taylor/Gutierrez Baeza

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comment

6. New/Continuing Business:

6.1. Consider Kudos Rescheduling

Commission considered postponing the Kudos event until July 2024 to coincide with National Disability Pride Month and the Commission's reserved Art Wall. Ad Hoc Subcommittee will convene in February and dissolve after the event.

Motion to hold the next Kudos Awards in July 2024

Motion/Second: Daugherty/Taylor

Motion passed unanimously.

6.2. Commission Subcommittee Restructure

Staff provided more detailed information about Brown Act criteria for ad hoc subcommittees vs standing subcommittees. Although all Commission subcommittees meet the Brown Act definition of ad hoc subcommittees, these elements will be formally recorded in the minutes going forward for additional transparency.

7. Commission Reports

7.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report: None

7.2. Housing Element Community Stakeholder Group Final Report: None

8. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports:

8.1. Accessibility Awareness Priority Report:

Commission reviewed the public awareness event calendar for and discussed postponing library story time scheduling and the Community Art Wall exhibit to coincide with Kudos and National Disability Pride month in July 2024. Staff will make name badges and update brochures. The ad hoc subcommittee was dissolved.

8.2. Accessible Adaptive Recreation Priority Report

Molina and Gutierrez Baeza attended the presentation of a new water wheelchair at the Simpkins Swim Center. The event was well attended. Gutierrez Baeza has been speaking with County Parks Friends and the Parks Department about installing accessibility mats on County beaches to allow people using mobility devices or with vision impairment to more easily access the beach. Planning for ADA-accessible mat installation at Cowells Beach is underway. Commission will consider an advocacy letter on the topic at the next meeting. Haifley announced the Adaptive Family Fall Festival where the Treasure Cove Adaptive Playground design will be revealed at the Jade Street Park in Capitola. Baeza reported sending a photo at County Counsel's request demonstrating how the RDM her wheelchair pathway was blocked.

8.3. Legislative Priority Report

Gutierrez Baeza reported participating in the County's community feedback efforts to develop an equity statement. The statement presented to the Board did not mention disability, and the board memo only mentioned disability peripherally and primarily as an intersection with race/ethnicity. She observed that the County seems to define equity mainly as related to race/ethnicity with disability as an afterthought.

8.4. Commission History Subcommittee Report: No Report

8.5. Collaboration Priority Report: No Report

8.6. Affordable Accessible Housing Report

Levinson expressed concern that requirements for affordable ADA-accessible housing in new developments appear insufficient. Staff will invite the Planning Department to present on affordable accessible housing requirements for new developments in the County.

8.7. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report:

Commissioners are encouraged to attend METRO community feedback meeting remotely. Staff will contact Michael Tree. Grijalva reported being denied when attempting to schedule a ride two days in advance because they were "at capacity" for that day. Daugherty reported that historically Paracruz has no capacity restriction.

9. Staff Report: None

10. Announcements/Emerging Matters

Levinson announced the Women on Waves fundraising event benefitting the Ride the Waves foundation. The UC Berkely Chancellor announced their Disability Studies program will hold a Crip Camp screening. Commissioners are encouraged to learn more about the program.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*



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November 9, 2023

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
710 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Recommendation for the Installation of ADA Accessible Beach Mats on County Beaches

Dear Chair Friend and Members of the Board,

The purpose of this letter is to advocate for the purchase and installation of ADA accessible mats on county beaches. This initiative is critical for the well-being and inclusivity of our community members and visitors, and it will help Santa Cruz County remain competitive as a recreational destination.

First and foremost, we would like to highlight that neighboring Monterey County has already taken proactive steps in installing ADA accessible mats on their beaches. This has positioned them as a more inclusive and accessible destination for individuals with disabilities, contributing positively to their tourism industry. Santa Cruz County, with its renowned beaches, should follow suit to maintain and enhance its reputation as a welcoming and inclusive place for all.

There are several compelling reasons why we urge you to authorize the purchase and installation of ADA-accessible mats on our county beaches:

1. **Accessibility for All:** ADA accessible mats ensure that individuals with mobility devices, such as wheelchairs and walkers, can access our beautiful beaches with ease and safety. This promotes social inclusion, independence, and recreational opportunities for a wider segment of our community.
2. **Cost-Effectiveness:** Beach wheelchairs, while beneficial, can be expensive to maintain and are not always available for immediate use. By contrast, ADA accessible mats are a cost-effective and permanent solution that will serve a broader range of individuals over an extended period.
3. **Applicability to Various Disabilities:** Beach mats are not only beneficial for those using mobility devices but also for people with vision impairments and other disabilities. The mats provide a stable, navigable surface that helps individuals with visual impairments move safely and confidently along the beach.
4. **Enhanced Tourism and Economic Impact:** Investing in accessible infrastructure, like ADA mats, can attract more visitors to Santa Cruz County, including those with disabilities. This will positively impact our local economy through increased tourism and revenue for local businesses.

5. Compliance with Legal Obligations: Ensuring accessibility on public beaches is not only a moral obligation but also a legal one under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Failure to provide accessible amenities could potentially result in legal challenges and potential fines.

In conclusion, Santa Cruz County has the opportunity to be a leader in providing inclusive recreational opportunities and improving accessibility for all its residents and visitors. We kindly request that you consider authorizing the Parks Department to purchase and install ADA-accessible mats on our County beaches. This initiative aligns with our shared commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and it will benefit our entire community.

We are more than willing to provide further information or collaborate on this project to make our beaches more inclusive and accessible. Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we look forward to your positive response.

Respectfully,

David Molina
Commission on Disabilities Co-Chair

cc: Jeff Gaffney, *Parks Director*
County Park Friends Board of Directors



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Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified below, regularly scheduled Commission on Disability meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: Second (2nd) Thursday*
MONTH: Every month except July and December
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Fifth Floor – Board Chambers*
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

***Unless noted otherwise below**

Changes to the schedule, including special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations, will be listed on the website at www.scccod.net as soon as information becomes available.

2023 MEETING DATES		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 12, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Remote
February 9, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Remote
March 9, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Board Chambers
April 13, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Board Chambers
May 11, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Board Chambers
June 8, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Board Chambers
August 10, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Board Chambers
September 14, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Board Chambers
October 12, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Board Chambers
November 9, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwood Room

Public Participation

- Please check the meeting agenda to learn details about how to participate in the commission meeting.
- If you need special accommodations, please call 454-2935 or TDD: 711 (California Relay Service) at least 48 hours before the meeting.