

**CITY OF GLENDALE, ARIZONA
COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
LIBRARY BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM
SECOND FLOOR
5959 WEST BROWN STREET**

**MEETING MINTUES
JUNE 15, 2010
6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Shirley Galvez
Raymond Yaeggi
Adonis Deniz,
Laura Hirsch
Robert Steiger
Mounib Shaaban, Chair

Members Absent: Gary Charlson,excused
Danielle Bohall, excused

Staff Present: Sylvia Charters, Human Resources

Public Guest Present: Mary Ann Smith, Kim Huff, Karen Gifford, Karin Kellas, and Myrna Poe

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:33 p.m. A quorum was present.

Chairperson Shabban stated that Commissioner Linda Yaegar had resigned, due to family issues. He also welcomed Commissioner Robert Steiger as the newest member of the Commission.

Chairperson Shaaban introduced Ms. Lisa Furr, Outreach Coordinator for AZ Relay Service & Caption Telephone Service, as this evening's guest speaker.

2. Speaker

Ms. Lisa Furr began her presentation explaining that she was born deaf. She indicated that her parents were also deaf; however, that was not always the case in some families. She stated that she will communicate her presentation today with the aid of two sign language interpreters. She stated that Arizona Relay (AZRS) was a free 24 hour service that allows people who are hearing, deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech impaired to communicate with each other via the telephone. This is done through the use of specialized equipment people can use to converse with family and friends using a

standard telephone. The way the system works is once a call is placed through AZRS, a communication assistant facilitates the call. The facilitator types everything that is heard and acts as an invisible link between the parties. All calls are kept strictly confidential. The facilitators do not comment on the conversation, answer questions or become involved in any way. As required by law, conversation and information cannot be disclosed from a relay conversation nor are records saved. Ms. Furr explained the different options Arizona Relay offers its customers. Available options for clients are as follows: Text Telephone (TTY), Voice Carry Over (VCO), Hearing Carry Over (HCO), Speech-to-Speech (STS), Caption Telephone Service (CTS) and Spanish selection.

Commissioner Yaeggi asked if there was a specific method used for 9-1-1. Ms. Furr explained that none was needed. The caller is told to dial the emergency number and stay on the line in an emergency.

Commissioner Deniz asked if the facilitators were able to get involved in a threatening conversation during a call. Ms. Furr explained that the facilitators were not allowed to get involved or comment on conversations.

Chairperson Shaaban discussed the use of lights to alert deaf people when they have a phone call or the doorbell rings.

Ms. Sylvia Charters, Human Resources, asked how deaf people typically communicate when being pulled over by the police on a traffic violation. Ms. Furr noted that the best way was to use a pen and paper.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Chairperson Shaaban called for a Motion.

Commissioner Galvez made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2010, Commission on Persons with Disabilities. Commissioner Deniz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

Chairperson Shaaban called for Old Business.

Website

Chairperson Shaaban explained that Commissioner Yaeger was the liaison for the website program moving forward with a new design. However, since her resignation, a new liaison was needed for this endeavor. He asked for a new volunteer. At the previous meeting, it was reported that they had the opportunity to meet with the city's Web Masters, Ginger Eiden and Leslie Reedy regarding updating the Commission's website. The Annual Report along with the Frequently Asked Questions was recently added to the website. The Commissioners were also requested to provide information on a monthly basis to add to the website.

Commissioner Hirsch stated that she would be happy to help and be the liaison for the website program. Chairperson Shaaban asked Ms. Charters to provide Commissioner Hirsch with all the information needed to start work on the website. He reminded everyone that the Commission on Persons with Disabilities advises the City Council on issues, regulations or policies affecting the city's disabled population and their contributions and involvement with the community. He noted that they take their role very seriously, therefore, the process of reorganizing and updating the website was vital for the accessibility of information needed for the city's disabled.

Community Outreach

Commissioner Yaeggi updated the Commission on the information contact list of names and numbers of HOA board members in their respective districts. He stated that the idea was for each Commissioner to establish contact and invite interested parties to attend a Commission meeting to learn about the many opportunities the disabled community has in the City of Glendale. He indicated that his experience had been very positive. He reported that out of the 9 calls he made, he talked to approximately 6 people for 15-20 minutes.

Chairperson Shaaban remarked that his experience had been equally positive. He noted that the female population had been more cooperative than the males. He explained that most were surprised Glendale had a Commission for the disabled. He stated that it was very important to spread the word. He inquired if they might possibly use the Glendale Star as a spring board for community outreach. Ms. Charters explained that everything had to go through marketing for approval. Chairperson Shaaban remarked that it would be a good idea to invite someone from marketing to a Commission meeting in order to find out the Commission's guidelines and limitations. Ms. Charters noted that she will try and schedule it for the August meeting.

Commissioner Hirsch stated that she had been able to reach 4 out of 6 people. Most thanked her for the information and had no issues to report.

Commissioner Deniz remarked that since they had been successful in making contacts, they should concentrate on rental properties next. Ms. Charters stated that the city may possibly have those phone numbers available. She will verify and get back to the Commission.

Parks/Recreation Questionnaire

Chairperson Shaaban explained that the Parks and Recreation Department had provided the Commission with a Master Plan Update feedback questionnaire. However, the questionnaire's deadline had since passed. He still encouraged the Commissioners to pass along any feedback they deem necessary. He hopes that next time; they are provided the information on time, in order to prepare their responses.

5. New Business

Chairperson Shaaban called for New Business.

New Commissioner

The Commissioners welcomed new Commission member Robert Steiger from the Sahuaro district. Commissioner Steiger is very active in the Block Watch Project and has served on other commissions in the city.

VRATE Expo

The 14th Annual Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo will be held at the Glendale Civic Center, on Friday, October 29, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Chairperson Shaaban asked for volunteers to work the table at the entrance. He encouraged everyone to attend and reminded them of the Expo's importance. Commissioner Charlson suggested they add a flyer to their website.

ABIL Fair Update

Commissioner Deniz presented this item. He reported that the ABIL fair attendance in May was very good. He explained that Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL) is Arizona's largest center for Independent Living. ABIL offers and promotes programs designed to empower people with disabilities to take personal responsibility so they may achieve or continue independent lifestyles within the community. He stated that the fair had been very informative. The information provided ranges from help with cooking to exercising. He hopes to be able to bring an ABIL fair to Glendale. Chairperson Shaaban suggested inviting a representative from ABIL to come speak to the Commission in September. Ms. Charters stated that she will be contacting Mr. David Carey from ABIL to coordinate a meeting. She will have information for the Commission at the next meeting in August.

6. Other Business From the Floor

Chairperson Shaaban called for Other Business from the floor.

Chairperson Shaaban reported on an email received from a disabled citizen asking for help. The individual stated that he was unable to cross the street at 43rd and Olive because of the inaccessibility of the button used to change the light and cross the street. The area surrounding the light switch was worn down and sandy with no wheelchair accessibility. Chairperson Shaaban explained that Ms. Charters had forwarded the email to the appropriate city department and within two weeks the matter was resolved. He was very pleased as to how the city and the CPD came together to help this individual resulting in a happy ending. He noted that handicapped persons are the ones who can identify dilemmas that were the most problematic to the disabled. He reiterated the importance of the website's involvement and outreach to the community.

Chairperson Shaaban discussed the issue of accessibility of polling places for the disabled. He explained that new sites need inspection since the older sites have already been inspected by the county. He suggested Commissioners volunteer for their own districts and inspect some sites. Commissioner Yaeggi noted that most of the sites were in schools which are now closed for summer vacation. Ms. Charters will forward the

message when received from the City Clerk Office. Chairperson Shaaban stated that this will all have to be communicated by email since they will not meet until August.

Chairperson Shaaban reported on a letter received from the state of Illinois asking for help and information on the City of Glendale and how they help the disabled. He read the letter out loud for the Commission. Everyone agreed it sounded and appeared fake and phony.

Ms. Charters provided information on Commissioner Charlson's condition. She stated that he had been admitted to John C. Lincoln Hospital and is reportedly in good spirits.

Public Comments

Glendale residents, Mary Ann Smith and Kim Huff provided information on a new product called Vemma. She passed out information and samples on the product.

Ms. Myrna Poe, Glendale resident, asked for information on how to deal with problems she was having with her HOA. She believes her HOA was contracting unlicensed contractors. Commissioner Yaeggi provided helpful information.

Ms. Karin Kellas, Glendale resident, stated that she would very much like to be part of this Commission. She detailed the many groups she has been a part of as well as her credentials.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Glendale Commission on Persons with Disabilities will be held Tuesday, August 17, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. at the 2nd Floor Board Conference Room, Glendale Public Library, 5959 West Brown Street, Glendale, Arizona.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commission member Yaeggi to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commission member Galvez and carried unanimously.

As there were no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary, Estella Ramos