

improve the lives of all affected by autism. She said they try to increase public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum or under the autism umbrella.

Ms. Sunseri continued by stating the Society was founded in 1965 by Dr. Bernard Rimland, Dr. Ruth Sullivan, and many other parents of children with autism. Through its strong chapter network, the Autism Society has spearheaded numerous pieces of state and local legislation. There are three chapters in Arizona.

She explained there are many different types of behaviors of autism. She stated they work to educate doctors regarding autism. Autism is a medical condition, not a psychological condition.

She described some of the children with autism and her personal experiences. She stated these children not only display traits such as tantrums, having little to no eye contact, not wanting to cuddle or be cuddled, and wanting to be alone, these children have serious medical conditions that are often overlooked.

Ms. Sunseri distributed information about three parent mentors. She is one of those three. She asked the Commission if they know anyone that is in need to help with autism to please contact any of the three shown on the flyer. If they do not have the answer, they will find it or guide the parent in the right direction.

She mentioned that the Autism Society is working closely with physicians at Phoenix Children's Hospital (PCH) to address the medical needs of autistic children. People travel from other areas of the country to obtain treatment at PCH for their children.

In addition, she distributed pamphlets regarding autism. The pamphlet reads "autism is treatable," Dr. Bernard Rimland, Ph.D.

Commissioner Shaaban asked if autism is a syndrome. Ms. Sunseri said autism was originally defined as children that were sickly, had bad immune systems, and chronic diarrhea among other issues. These conditions were ignored and autism was labeled as a psychological condition. It was also thought autism was created by unloving mothers, labeled "refrigerator mothers." The children of these mothers were sometimes removed from their homes and also kept away from other children. Dr. Rimland wrote the book that changed these perceptions. He explained there is activity taking place in the body that is causing these physical alignments. However, there are psychologists that want to believe and hold on to the idea that autism is psychological and not physical. The cause of autism is still unknown.

She explained that they learn by receiving little pieces of information. Eventually, they will learn how to compile all that they have learned. Most autistic children that received early intervention grow into very intelligent adults.

She thanked the Commission.

3. **Approval of Minutes from June 16, 2009, Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Ray called for a Motion.

Chairperson Ray noted corrections on Page 1 and page 5.

Commissioner Charlson made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Shaaban seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **New Business**

Chairperson Ray called for New Business.

Chairperson Ray stated that Commissioner Robert Koehler has regrettably submitted his resignation due to health reasons. She read his resignation letter for the Commission.

Chairperson Ray also noted a friendly reminder to please contact Ms. Kristin Krey regarding the upcoming Boards and Commissions training. Ms. Charters encouraged those that have not had Basic Training or that have not attended this Training in the past few years to register.

5. **Old Business**

Chairperson Ray called for Sub-committee updates and she distributed the 2009 Commission goals as a refresher for the Commission members.

Chairperson Ray called for an update on Mini-grants.

Mini-grants – Chairperson Ray brought new commissioner Yaeggi up to date on the mini-grants program.

After a brief discussion, the Commission suggested this should be tabled for fiscal year 09-10 as there is no financing for this program.

Commissioner Yaeggi made a motion to TABLE the Mini-grants program. Commissioner Zastrow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Accessibility - Chairperson Ray reminded the Commissioners to attend their respective district meetings. She said the Barrel District meeting, Town Talk, would take place on October 7, 2009. This will be held at the Adult Center from 5 pm to 7pm. She encouraged Commissioners Charlson, Kulp, and Hendrix to attend. However, she asked the commission to be mindful and be sure to avoid that a quorum is present at any district meeting. This is the perfect opportunity to educate the public on disabilities related issues.

Chairperson Ray explained that Commissioner Kulp had a concern about the lighting along the south side of the Main Library. She stated that Commissioner Kulp completed a request through AccessGlendale and her issue was resolved. There was a mesquite tree

covering one of the light fixtures. The tree was trimmed and now there is adequate lighting along the south side of the main Library.

Chairperson Ray addressed another inquiry received through AccessGlendale. This request was from a gentleman who was unable to access the latch to get into the swimming pool area of his housing complex. This resident and his wife had called the city's Code Compliance Department and had been informed that the latches could not be moved due to public safety reasons. However, they believed that there was an accessibility issue and sent an inquiry to the Commission via AccessGlendale to further investigate their concerns. Staff checked with the city's Code Compliance to see if the latch could be lowered. The Code Compliance Assistant Director confirmed indeed that it was not possible to lower the latches as there is a height requirement for latches in public areas for safety reasons. Chairperson Ray sent a reply to the gentleman and his wife with a referral to contact Mr. Clayton Guffey with Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP) for assistance with a assistive device that would allow independent access to the latches. Staff has provided Mr. Guffey's information to the citizen so that he may contact him.

Chairperson Ray also provided an update regarding Closed Captioning for KGLN 11. She stated there is no funding at this time and this issue can be revisited in the future.

Chairperson Ray asked the Commissioners if they reviewed the online survey and if there were any suggestions for improvement. She asked the Commissioners to review the survey and provide feedback at the next meeting.

Parking - Chairperson Ray distributed information regarding disability parking violation fees. This comparison chart was done in October 2008. She said the Commission is attempting, and has attempted, to look at a variety of ways to address parking violations.

The Commission reviewed a few of the key issues related with violations. They agreed to coordinate with Code Compliance and the Glendale City Court to gather more information regarding the number of violations received, the rules and regulations regarding disable parking, and other information. The Commission discussed inviting a representative from Code Compliance to a meeting to discuss the possibilities of the city make it a requirement to post fee amounts on handicapped parking signs in Glendale to help serve as a deterrent to illegal parking in these spaces.

Commissioner Shaaban made a motion to direct staff to request a representative from Code Compliance attend the next meeting.

Commissioner Yaeggi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Yaeggi shared an experience regarding a handicapped parking violation at one of the City of Glendale buildings as well as an experience with the United States Postal Service. He explained the postal carrier who delivers and retrieves mail from the City of Glendale City Hall parks in a handicapped parking by the Velma Teague Library

while she gathers letters. This is clearly a violation. Commissioners suggested staff contact the Glendale Police Department so they may monitor this USPS vehicle.

Technology - Chairperson Ray recalled a letter received from Mr. Higgins requesting his suggested website be added as a link onto the Disabilities webpage references listing. The Commission had previously determined this particular website would not be included and a letter shall be sent to Mr. Higgins advising him of such.

6. Other Business From the Floor

Chairperson Ray asked for Other Business From the Floor. There was none.

7. Next meeting - September 15, 2009

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Figueroa