

**COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
GLENDALE MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD ROOM
5959 WEST BROWN STREET, GLENDALE, ARIZONA**

Meeting Minutes

**April 21, 2009
6:30p.m.**

Members Present: Robert Koehler Robert Muth
 Mounib Shaaban Erik Hendrix
 Margaret Kulp Gary Charlson
 Ricki Ray, Chairperson

Members Absent: Danielle Bohall, excused, Dwante Jackson, resigned, and Shirley Galvez,
 excused

Staff Present: Sylvia Charters, Human Resources, Kristen Krey, Council Services
 Administrator, and Diana Figueroa, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:39pm. A quorum was present.

2. Approval of Minutes from February 17, 2009 Meeting

Chairperson Ray called for a Motion.

Commissioner Muth made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Shaaban seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Speaker: Kristen Krey, Council Services Administrator

Chairperson Ray introduced Ms. Kristen Krey, Council Services Administrator.

Ms. Krey began by thanking the Commission for their voluntary service. She stated the Council relies heavily upon its 18 boards and commissions. She stated that she is familiar with some of the Commissioners this evening as she has met them during the Basic Training, offered and recommended by the City of Glendale. She added there are a number of commissioners that last had the Basic Training in 2002. She stated the Basic Training offered currently is very different from what was offered eight years prior. One of these differences, she noted, is the Open Meeting Law. And for this evening's presentation she will focus on this subject.

Ms. Krey continued by stating the Basic Training is mandatory for those that wish to participate on the city's Boards and Commissions. She stated training is offered twice a year, with the next training being offered in September 2009. The Council has made this mandatory for its volunteer Board members and Commissioners because everyone needs to be familiar with the laws and policies as they relate to Boards and Commissions.

In addition, Ms. Krey stated there is Advanced Training offered which is directed towards future Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons. She said this Advanced Training is also offered twice a year.

She explained how important the function of each Board and Commission is to the Council members and more so, the entire community.

She explained that the Government Services Committee oversees the functions of the Boards and Commissions. She added this Committee is a subcommittee of the City Council, and is chaired by Vice Mayor Manny Martinez.

Ms. Krey continued her presentation with information relating to the Open Meeting Law and continued with an information regarding Conflict of Interest.

Ms. Krey said she had training manuals available if any one needed a copy. She thanked the Commission for their time.

4. New Business – City of Glendale website resources

Chairperson Ray reviewed the City of Glendale website explaining where resources are located such as Council Council agendas and minutes, upcoming public meetings, and district news.

5. Old Business

Chairperson Ray called for Sub-committee updates.

Mini-grants – Commissioner Koehler polled the Commission to determine if there is interest in continuing this program. The Commission discussed the current obstacles such as the lack of funding.

The Commission discussed the parameters outlined by the City Attorney's Office at a previous meeting. They discussed the possibility of soliciting donations from local companies or major corporations that could fund the Mini-grants Program. They discussed alternatives such as an appreciation luncheon and various methods of raising monies; however, they determined to continue efforts toward the Mini-grants Program. After a brief discussion, the Commission concluded, at this time, the website would be updated and information regarding the Mini-grants Program would be removed.

Also, the Commission agreed to compose and distribute a letter requesting donations to fund the Mini-grants Program and its associated costs such as copy and mailing costs. Once funding is established the Mini-grants Program information could be posted on the website.

Accessibility – No Update.

Parking – Commissioner Muth said he has made contact with the City of Glendale Police Department and spoke with Public Information Officer Cunningham. Officer Cunningham has sent the City Code as it relates to handicapped parking. Commissioner Muth asked that each Commissioner review this material.

Technology – Commissioner Hendrix stated he emailed the improved and recently revised resources list to Ms. Charters. Ms. Charters will contact the webmasters in order to have the list updated. Commissioner Hendrix said he would begin work on compiling a *FAQs* list for the Disabilities webpage.

6. Other Business From the Floor

Chairperson Ray introduced Ms. Judy Kay Frieder with Arizona Bridge for Independent Living (ABIL).

Ms. Frieder, Home Modification Coordinator, with ABIL, provided the Commission with information about ABIL.. Ms. Frieder explained many of the ABIL Programs but focused on the Home Modification Program. She stated the Program is made possible by Community Development Block Grants through the cities of Phoenix, Glendale, Mesa, and Peoria, as well as consumer contributions.

She continued by explaining this is a match program. The cities pay 90% while the homeowner is expected to contribute 10% of the cost of modification through cash, in-kind contribution (labor, materials, and volunteerism) or through other funding contributions.

Ms. Frieder said some of the services provided are ramps, bathroom modifications such as showers, sinks, and toilets, grab bar installation, as well as door widening. In addition, ABIL will lower thresholds and install flooring for safer mobility.

Commissioner Kulp questioned if ABIL also provides and installs smoke detectors. Ms. Frieder stated she believes that is done by the Fire Department.

The Commission thanked Ms. Frieder for her time and valuable information.

Chairperson Ray introduced Ms. Ginny Clark-Wright, State Chapter Coordinator with the Hearing Loss Association of America.

Ms. Clark-Wright stated she is a Glendale resident and was interested in becoming more familiar with the functions of this Commission. She said education is needed in order to prevent deafness. She explained The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is the nation's leading organization representing people with hearing loss. She said there are 36 million (17%) American adults have some degree of hearing loss making it a public health issue third in line after heart disease and arthritis.

She described that the HLAA provides assistance and resources for people with hearing loss and their families to learn how to adjust to living with hearing loss. HLAA is

working to eradicate the stigma associated with hearing loss and raise public awareness about the need for prevention and the importance of regular hearing screenings throughout life.

She added the City of Surprise has an excellent program for the hard of hearing and deaf while is extremely beneficial for those residing in Sun City Grand.

Ms. Wright thanked the Commission for their time.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Figueroa