



Memorandum

DATE: July 14, 2015
TO: Glendale Government Service Committee
FROM: Erik Strunk, Community Services Director
SUBJECT: Commission on Persons with Disabilities Year End Report FY 2014-2015

Innovation: There were no operational changes to the Commission in FY 14-15.

Administrative: There were no administrative changes in FY 14-15.

Accomplishments:

- Analysis of Fair Housing Impediments - In order to receive federal funds from HUD, the City must comply with all fair housing requirements of the Federal Government. In September 2014, the Commission reviewed and commented on the City's "Analysis to Impediments" for fair housing. This was done as part of the City's effort to update and develop a new five-year Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan is also required by the Federal Government in order for the City to receive its annual CDBG funds. The Commission's input was extremely valuable and subsequently contributed to the plan's official approval by Council in May and by the Federal Government in July 2015.
- Review of ADA Audit - In September 2010, the Department of Justice (DOJ), published new, national, ADA design standards that require all jurisdictions with parks and recreation facilities to comply. The regulations call for enforceable accessibility standards known as the "2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design." By issuing this ruling, the DOJ required each jurisdiction with parks and recreation facilities to conduct an audit and develop an action plan for compliance with the new rule, which took effect on March 15, 2012. The Commission provided review and direction as to the status of the objectives and accomplishments of this multi-year, multi-million dollar audit.
- Discussion of CDBG ADA Grants - As a part of the City's efforts to work towards ADA compliance in the City's 119 different parks and recreation facilities, the Commission reviewed and approved in concept \$318,500 in Community Development Block Grant funding requests for needed enhancements at the Rose Lane Aquatics Center and approximately 93 different facility improvements throughout the parks system. These were subsequently approved by the Council as part of the FY 15-16 CDBG recommendations.
- Elsie McCarthy Project - As a part of the Commission's FY 14-15 work plan, it expressed interest in possibly modernizing the Elsie McCarthy Sensory Garden. One of the items will

be to fund the conversion of select fountains within the park to a permanent display of art. As a result, through the Arts Commission a “call for artists” was issued and a \$10,000 grant was awarded for the conversion of an existing fountain no longer in operation, to a static display of art. It will be completed by September 2015. Partners include Glendale Parks and Recreation, the Free Arts for Abused Children of Arizona; Diana House - A Shelter for Teen Girls; and the Northview Shelter; and the artist, Kristine Kollasch.

Goals for FY 15-16: The Commission will be conducting its annual retreat on Saturday, August 22, 2015, 8 a.m. – Noon at the Fruit Packing Shed of Historic Sahuaro Ranch Park. They will review the following goals and modify them as appropriate:

- Adopting the Elsie McCarthy Sensory Garden through the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Partners N’ Parks program. To include:
 - ✓ A lighting assessment with the possibility of adding additional lights to the park (including solar lighting).
 - ✓ Identify different trees (with different scents) to possibly plant in the park.
 - ✓ Converting some of the existing water fountain features that no longer work, to planter-type features.
 - ✓ Developing a marketing plan to ensure greater visibility of the park.
 - ✓ Seeking additional input from the public through a variety of methods.
 - ✓ Providing fund- raising opportunities and events.
 - ✓ Completing 2-3 renovation “work days” and a “Come to your Senses” grand re-opening ceremony. This is being planned for October 2015.
- The Commission would like to plan and implement an open house. There is interest in the Commission sponsoring an open-house/town-hall type fair for persons with disabilities in Glendale. Staff will develop possible concepts regarding what such an event might look like. This is tentatively planned for March 2016.
- The Commission will attend 2-3 functions to learn more about the disabled community and their needs and concerns.
- Review of the Commission Brochure – this will be done as part of the continued conversation the Commission will have on marketing opportunities.