

Minutes

Commission on Disability Concerns Meeting

December 2, 2024

Minutes of the COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS held on Monday, December 2, 2024, 6:30 p.m., held both In-Person & Virtually: Tempe Public Library 2nd Floor Conference Room, 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ 85282 & Microsoft Teams at the following link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) or by telephone: (480) 498-8745, United States, Phoenix (Toll), Conference ID: 762 995 762#

(MEMBERS) Present:

Kathy Jefferson (Chair)
Rachel Gomez
Jacob Bush
Genevieve Vega
Irene Mochel
Krista Smiley

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Patrick McNamara
Steven Tokos

City Staff Present:

Monique Perry, ADA Accessibility Coordinator/ Staff Liaison

Guests

Public Guest: Lauren Hansen

Call to Order

Commissioner Jefferson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Native Land Acknowledgement Statement

We wish to acknowledge that Tempe is the homeland of the Native people who have inhabited this landscape since time immemorial. These ancestral lands of the O’odham (known as the Pima), Piipaash (known as the Maricopa), and their ancestors extend far beyond our city. This land continues to be spiritually connected to the O’odham of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Gila River Indian Community. We accept the responsibility of stewarding those places and solemnly pledge to consider this commitment in every action.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

The Commission on Disability Concerns welcomes public comment for items listed on this agenda only. There is a three-minute limit per person. If you would like the Commission to consider an issue or topic, please request the topic be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. The Commission must provide notice to the Community of our discussion, consideration, and PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA possible action on every topic. Please feel free to speak with any Commissioner or staff so we may assist you.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Minutes: November 4, 2024

The approval of November 4th minutes was tabled due to document being unavailable.

Agenda Item 4 – Citywide ADA Updates/ Questions/ Discussion

There were no new reports since the last meeting with the commission.

Agenda Item 5 – Tempe Community Council Agency Review Process

Commissioner Jefferson (Chair) attended the Agency Review Process training conducted by the Tempe Community Council (TCC). This is a process in which TCC partners with the City of Tempe to expertly administer and manage the distribution of community donations funds for non-profits in the city.

Agenda Item 6 – Commission Annual Report for 2024

The commission reviewed, discussed and voted on the Commission's final annual report prepared for submittal to the City Clerk. One correction was added to the accomplishments section, "the commission received citywide updates from the ADA Accessibility Coordinator each month."

Agenda Item 7 – Commission Chair/ Co-Chair Nomination and Vote

Commissioner Irene Mochel initiated the process with a nomination of Commissioner Kathy Jefferson to serve as the commission chair for another year. This nomination was followed by Commissioner Kathy Jefferson nominating herself to serve as chair for another year and Commissioner Bunch second the motion for Commissioner Jefferson to serve as the Chair; Commissioner Jefferson accepted the nomination. Commissioner Bunch nominated Commissioner Genevieve Vega to serve as Co-Chair for the commission and Commissioner Jefferson nominated Commissioner Bunch to serve as Co-Chair; Commissioner Vega declined the nomination, and second the motion for Commissioner Bunch to serve as the Co-Chair; Commissioner Bunch accepted the nomination. Commissioner Jefferson will remain the Chair for CDC and Commissioner Bunch will serve as Co-Chair for 2025.

Agenda Item 8 – Commission Vote on January Meeting

Historically, the commission has not had a meeting during the month of January and there were concerns regarding new commissioners not meeting the commission until February, with the All-Abilities Ceremony in April. The vote was put forward to the commission, Commissioner Jefferson made the motion that we have a January meeting, perhaps not on the first Monday due to the holidays and Commissioner Mochel seconded the motion. The voting results were five commissioners to affirm meeting in January, with one nay to meeting in January.

Agenda Item 9 – Updates/ Questions

Commissioner Vega provided an update regarding the first meeting for a sub-committee for Increased Advocacy for Tempe Youth with Disabilities. Vega reported the first meeting covered very broad agenda items, such as short- and long-term issues, funding and youth transition. The sub-committee will host their next meeting on Friday, December 13, 2024, in the large conference room on the third floor of City Hall.

Agenda Item 10 – Announcements

Commissioner Jefferson spoke to the commission about going out into the community with the ADA Coordinator to get a visual of the issues community members raised. It was also requested to other

commission members that if they are aware of activities happening around the city where we can represent, feel free to bring those suggestions forward.

Commissioner Vega mentioned the Tempe Festival of the Arts happening this weekend, December 6, 2024, also the Boat Parade at Tempe Town Lake on December 14, 2024.

Agenda Item 11 – Upcoming Meeting Date + Proposed Future Agenda Items

- Upcoming Meeting Date – January 13, 2025
- Proposed Future Agenda Items Updates
 - Project Vision Zero Presentation
 - First Responders training Presentation
 - The Centers for Habilitation Presentation
 - Adult Changing Tables
 - Potential “green certification” process

Motion made by Commissioner Vega to adjourn the meeting.

Second by Commissioners Gomez and Jefferson.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Prepared by: Monique Perry

Reviewed by: Velicia McMillan Humes