

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

Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2009
6:30p.m.

Members Present: Shirley Galvez Robert Muth
 Mounib Shaaban Erik Hendrix
 Margaret Kulp Gary Charlson
 Gerald Zastrow Danielle Bohall (Departed at 7:50pm)
 Ricki Ray, Chairperson

Members Absent: Robert Koehler (excused)

Staff Present: Sylvia Charters, Human Resources,

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30pm. A quorum was present. Chairperson Ray stated Commissioner Koehler was not present.

2. Speaker: Clayton Guffey, AzTAP – Arizona Technology Access Program

Chairperson Ray introduced Mr. Clayton Guffey, the Assistive Technology Specialist with the Arizona Technology Access Program.

Mr. Guffey provided some background information for the Commission. He said they are based in Phoenix and a federally funded program that provides a range of services related to the acquisition of assistive technology for person with disabilities. He said this is a small program which includes a five person staff.

Mr. Guffey presented an overview of the program. He distributed a flyer regarding the program. He asked the Commission to review the information. He explained they assist by helping to provide equipment or technology services to help those that are disabled in every aspect of their lives. This would be devices such as a video magnifier for the visually impaired, a lift for your vehicle to allow persons to move around freely, door handles for those unable to grasp a door handle, and much more.

He expanded on their newest program, the Assistive Technology Lending and Demonstration Program. He said there are 1,300 difference pieces of assistive technology available for viewing and demonstrations are available in the downtown office. Also available is equipment for trial. If someone is interested in a certain piece of

equipment, it would be available for checkout. This allows the person the opportunity to take it home and try it out. All is free to the client. Equipment can be checked out for up to two weeks. Mr. Guffey referred to the handout and said there is a link to the web page and it shows all the equipment which is available.

Commissioner Galvez asked if the rental of this equipment might be covered by insurance. Mr. Guffey said that assistive technology can be funded through a third party. He said sometimes insurance does not cover rental, but they will look for a third party for coverage. These items provided are to improve the quality of life and, unfortunately, medical insurance companies often do not see this as a medical necessity.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kulp, Mr. Guffey stated there is an apparatus available for those that need assistance opening their vehicle doors. He said that there are many devices available for many different needs.

Next, Mr. Guffey explained they also house equipment for the Arizona Department of Education. If a school district would like to borrow a piece of equipment for a student, they can borrow it for up to one month. The contact information for this program is on the flyer.

Another program offered is the assistive technology exchange. It is an online forum, similar to a Craig's List, for assistive technology exchange or sale. These items are gently used and are available for someone else to use. Mr. Guffey said this is also a place for someone to post for something they need and would like to purchase. They would be alerted by email if that particular piece of equipment becomes available for purchase. There are approximately 100 ads on the page currently. It is a great resource for those who cannot obtain insurance funding. This is free of charge and very easy to use. This site is a relatively safe site and he has had good results so far.

The next program, and the best, is the alternative financing program. Mr. Guffey said they make loans at a low interest rate which allows persons to purchase much needed equipment. This is an extremely affordable program with flexible repayment plans. He said the program is designed for those of lower income that have disabilities. He said this program has been very successful. Loans amounts range from \$5,000 to \$10,000, with the exception of one loan that was approximately \$20,000 to remodel a van for a disabled individual.

He added they also do computer training such as Windows including Windows Vista which has a voice recognition program included. Training takes place about every three months. This training is also free. A person could receive training onsite or if they would like to self teach, a CD is available to them also free of charge if one chooses that method of training.

Mr. Guffey closed by saying all services are available statewide. He appreciated the opportunity to speak to the Commission.

Chairperson Ray thanked him for the valuable information.

The Commission agreed to add this link to the Disabilities information page.

3. **Approval of Minutes from May 19, 2009, Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Ray called for a Motion.

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

4. **New Business**

Chairperson Ray called for New Business. There was none.

5. **Old Business**

Chairperson Ray suggested the Commission review the 2009 Goals that the group previously set. She believes and suggested it would be beneficial for the Commission to review the goals periodically.

The first goal is to review Handicapped Parking. She said that objective has been met. One of the long term goals was to see if the fine for handicapped parking violations could be increased. This would need to be presented to Council as a recommendation. She believes this issue needs further research before a presentation can be made to Council. She suggested information be gathered from other jurisdictions in order to do a comparison.

The Commission discussed the issue of signs having inconsistent information regarding the amount of the fines being charged. In some areas signs state the fee is \$100, while in other areas it is stated at \$200, and other signs do not note the fine amount at all. Commissioner Shaaban recommended consideration of a change in city code to require the correct be posted on all signs as this may serve as a deterrent to persons parking illegally.

The Commission also discussed related issues such as the cost of changing the fees and the cost of modifying existing signage.

It was suggested that the Commission collaborate with the Police Department and the Courts as they would be the first to deal with handicapped parking violators. The Commission should get their input on this issue.

Chairperson Ray suggested the Commission consider who is responsible for listing the violation amount on the sign. Ms. Charters will initiate contact with the Code Department for this inquiry.

Chairperson Ray called for discussion on Goal #2, which is the mini-grants program. She distributed a copy of the draft letter regarding mini-grants funding requests. The Commission reviewed the draft letter.

Commissioner Hendrix and Commissioner Bohall suggested that the letter include information as to how the donator would be recognized.

The Commission suggested revisions to the draft letter.

Commissioner Shaaban and Chairperson Ray agreed that struggling to obtain funding for the mini grants program is changing the focus of the Commission.

The rest of the Commission agreed. They also said that they can address public awareness and people in the community can still be recognized through other means such as gathering public nominations of employers, employees, volunteers, and others that promote persons with disabilities through presentation of a plaque of recognition.

After much discussion, Chairperson Ray asked how the Commission would continue to recognize citizens other than the mini grants program. The Commission agreed that, due to the economic situation, it would be very difficult to obtain funding at this time.

Chairperson Ray said she would meet with Commissioner Koehler to bring him up to date on this issue.

Chairperson Ray moved on to Goal #3. She reminded all the Commissioners to take not only the Basic Training, provided by the City Council Office, but also take the Advanced Training offered by the city. She noted that Basic Training is required for every Commissioner and Advanced Training must be completed before a Commissioner may serve in a chair or vice-chair position.

Goal #4 is to establish a presence in the Community. Chairperson Ray reminded the Commission there is a banner available to anyone attending a function. This banner would announce the Disabilities Commission.

The Commission discussed having pamphlets on varied disabilities and community resources available to distribute at upcoming functions. Commissioner Galvez volunteered to contact agencies listed on the Disabilities page to see if they would have pamphlets available that could be handed out to interested parties.

Goal #5 is to continue to educate the public on accessibility. Chairperson Ray stated the Commission continues to answer public inquiries submitted to Access Glendale. Another mechanism used is the on-line survey. The Commission had previously discussed if the survey should be available in hard copy. It is currently only available on the city website. The Adult Center would be a great place to have a survey regarding disability issues. Commissioner Zastrow also suggested the Foothills Library. Chairperson Ray suggested that both libraries be considered. She asked the Commission to review and analyze the Survey online and be prepared to discuss any changes at the August meeting. She also wanted to discuss any ideas on closed captioned. She read a letter that was presented to Laurie Sapp, Director at KGLN. There is still no funding for additional closed captioning.

Chairperson Ray continued with an update regarding Technology. Commissioner Hendrix continues to maintain the resource links on the website.

Chairperson Ray said the Commission should vote whether or not to continue the mini-grants program at the August meeting.

6. Other Business From the Floor

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

7. Next meeting – August 18, 2009

The Commission will be on recess the month of July.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Figueroa