



Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 12, 2018
Location: Regional Transportation Commission Offices, 1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Present: Becky Taylor, Janet Crosse, John Daugherty, Lynn Stipes, Ernestina Saldaña, David Molina, Felipa de Leon, Brenda Gutierrez Baeza
Excused: Angelica Victoria, Intern
Absent: Sylvia Luna
Staff: Britt Harmssen, EEO Officer

1. Call to Order: Meeting was convened at 1:04 pm.
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of February 22, 2018 minutes:
Motion/Second: Taylor/Gutierrez Baeza. Passed unanimously.
4. Additions/ Deletions to Agenda:
 - a.) Gutierrez Baeza tabled "Capstone Project Presentation" until further notice from Commission Intern.
 - b.) Approve Leo's Haven Inclusive Playground Support Letter drafted by Saldaña.
Motion/Second: Daughtery/Molina. Passed unanimously.
 - c.) Disability Capitol Action Day will be discussed as a possible tabling opportunity at Taylor's request.
5. Public unscheduled presentations and announcements to the Commission:
 - a.) Stipes distributed the Secretary of State's Guidelines regarding disability sensitivity at the election polls and information regarding polling site worker jobs.
 - b.) Taylor reported that she recently spoke to a classroom at Mar Vista Elementary School and has been invited to attend more classes. Taylor encouraged other Commissioners to attend with her.
6. Staff Report: A brief update regarding the status of the Commissions Coordinator recruitment was provided.
7. Capstone Project Presentation by Commission Intern: Tabled indefinitely.
8. Commission Reports:
 - a.) Metro/ Measure D: Daugherty reported that Metro is currently in a time of change. There have been some notable staff retirements recently, and Metro's Board of Directors voted to hold in abeyance consideration of its proposed Fare Restructuring Study until late 2018, at the earliest. Metro is currently hiring customer service representatives. Saldaña commented that these positions are good jobs for persons with disabilities.
 - b.) Social Media: No report.
 - c.) Employment: Saldaña requested that staff reach out to Commissioner Luna regarding

whether she wishes to continue serving on the Commission in light of her recent consecutive absences at meetings.

d.) History: Daugherty reported that Brookdale Assisted Living Facility in Scotts Valley (previously Oaktree Villa) is being sued for ADA violations. A discussion among Commissioners followed regarding long-term care issues, including the absence of qualified onsite nutritionists; substandard care; paying for showers, medication administration, and other basic needs; and the exorbitant cost of these services. Daugherty also reported that he is participating in a Pedestrian Safety Workgroup.

e.) Legislation: Daugherty reported that the pending ADA Education and Reform Act (HR 620), which rollbacks ADA protections, is unlikely to pass the Senate.

f.) IHSS: Taylor shared information about Disability Capitol Action Day scheduled for June 7, 2018 in Sacramento. The cost to table at the event is \$250. A discussion followed about what information the Commission would like to communicate at a future Capitol Day. The Commission will consider tabling at next year's event to allow time to brainstorm. Taylor will attend this year's event.

g.) Education: No report.

9. Subcommittee Updates:

a.) Recreation:

- i. Molina reported that progress toward implementing a swimming program for children with developmental disabilities at Simpkins Family Swim Center is about 50% completed.
- ii. Crosse reported on the Leo's Haven Park Adaptive Egg Hunts held at Twin Lakes Church on March 31, 2018, which included egg hunts for blind children, children with mobility disabilities, and children with autism. Taylor reported that she is attending the Leo's Haven Inclusive Playground meeting scheduled for this evening.

b.) Accessibility Awareness: No report.

c.) KUDOS Awards:

- i. De Leon reported that she needs volunteers to take over her planning role. Taylor and Stipes volunteered to assist Gutierrez Baeza, Crosse and Daugherty with planning and coordination.
- ii. Daugherty reserved the Scotts Valley Main Public Library's Fireside Room for the event to take place on October 20, 2018. Supervisor McPherson will be invited to be the Master of Ceremonies this year.

d.) Housing: Molina shared a recent article in the Santa Cruz Sentinel about Costanoa Commons' farming program for children with disabilities. Taylor reported that she is volunteering with the program.

10. New Business:

a.) Tabling opportunities: Discussed under IHSS report.

b.) Approve DeLaveaga Park Accessibility Letter tabled until next meeting.

c.) "Approve Letter(s) regarding the ADA Education and Reform Act and other proposed legislation affecting children living with disabilities" will be tabled until further notice.

11. Emerging Matters that may require Commission action:

None.

12. Adjournment at 2:20 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 10, 2018 from 12:30 – 2:00 pm at the Regional Transportation Commission Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Submitted: Britt Harmssen, EEO Officer