

**City of Glendale
Commission on Persons with Disabilities
Regular Meeting**

MINUTES

**Main Library, 1st Floor Meeting Room
5959 West Brown Street, Glendale, Arizona
Tuesday, March 18, 2014
6:00pm**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hirsch at approximately 6:00pm.

Roll Call

Chairperson Hirsch, Vice Chairperson Fallucca, and Commissioners Lesser, Hoerner, Kumar, and Mander were present. Staff in attendance was Erik Strunk, Executive Director, and Terri Canada, Finance, and Diana Figueroa, Recording Secretary.

Approval of Minutes – February 18, 2014 Regular Meeting

Chairperson Hirsch asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

She noted a correction to page 2 stating the Woman's Club members wish to plant a tree in the Elsie McCarthy Sensory Garden not Murphy Park.

Commissioner Lesser made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of the February 18, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Mander seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously, 6 to 0.

Business from the Floor

Chairperson Hirsch called for Business from the Floor. There was none.

Arizona Talking Book Library

Chairperson Hirsch introduced Ms. Christine Tuttle, Outreach Librarian / Special Services Supervisor from the Arizona State Talking Book Library. Ms. Tuttle provided a presentation to the Commission regarding the services the library provides. She said they provide materials for the visually impaired and the developmentally disabled. She distributed an application to the Commission, which those interested must complete. Once an application is received, the applicant will be assigned a librarian. Ms. Tuttle said the library goes to the person and there are never any overdue fees and each item may be kept for 30 days.

Ms. Tuttle said the library is 50% state funded and 50% funded by the Library of Congress. Every state is federally mandated to have a talking book program.

She displayed the book player and explained its functions. She said this equipment is distributed to patrons at no charge and they may keep the player as long as they are participating in the program. This piece of equipment allows patrons to hear the information,

which they've checked out. She explained the program in detail and described the items available to those served.

She said they only serve 9,000 people but are available and hope to serve many more in the near future. Ms. Tuttle said there are 125,000 books available and 800 movies available. She said this program began in 1941 and stated veterans are served first.

Ms. Tuttle said 3,000 items are returned each day and about 3,000 items are sent out each day.

Mr. Strunk asked how new titles were received. Ms. Tuttle said they work off of last year's best sellers' list. The media needs to be converted into their program thus creating a delay.

Mr. Strunk asked if other digital components were replacing the book player. Ms. Tuttle said no, patrons are comfortable with the format they have chosen. Some are self-sufficient and download their own items and some contact their librarian very often.

In response to a question from Chairperson Hirsch, Ms. Tuttle said the public libraries distribute CDs. She explained a patron with Parkinson's disease, for example, would not be able to maneuver the CD and CD player.

The Commission thanked Ms. Tuttle for her informative presentation.

City of Glendale 5-Year Financial Plan

Mr. Strunk introduced Ms. Terri Canada, Finance Department. She provided some background information on the staff in the Finance Department. She presented to the Commission the financial forecast for the next five years and the impact on the City's budget. The presentation provided a broad overview of the current budget, forecast methodology, and the steps, which will be taken to examine revenues and expenditures.

Ms. Canada began the presentation by explaining the purpose of the five-year forecast. She began by describing the forecast methodology, which includes 1) revenues, 2) expenditures, and 3) contingency. Ms. Canada then reviewed the expected revenues noting the anticipated growth of the city's sales tax; she noted the temporary sales tax which sunsets in 2017; and she noted the state shared revenues with the city.

Ms. Canada moved forward to the city's expenditures such as the Arena, Camelback Ranch, the upcoming Super Bowl in 2015 which the city will host at a cost of approximately \$1.7 million dollars, the salary adjustments for employees, which are necessary to stay competitive, and anticipated health insurance increases.

She explained the City's General Fund Structural Deficit and displayed a chart showing a five-year forecast. She displayed a chart showing the cost of personnel, supplies, services, and capital, contractual expenditures that are repayments that cannot be changed or negotiated, and contingency funds.

Ms. Canada then explained the short term and long term options.

Ms. Canada concluded by stating the next step is to gather feedback for the upcoming budget meetings and have discussions on the options available.

In response to a question from Commissioner Lesser, Mr. Strunk said the City Manager determines the interest rate of loans among City accounts.

Vice Chairperson Fallucca asked if this is a result of failed projects. Ms. Canada said it was a combination of many factors especially the recession.

Vice Chairperson Fallucca commented that city services are being impacted because of budget constraints. City residents wait longer to receive services.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kumar, Ms. Canada said personnel costs are approximately 70% in any given company.

Commissioner Kumar questioned why the City has allowed so many check-cashing establishments where she wishes retail stores were coming into Glendale.

Staff Updates

Mr. Erik Strunk briefed the Commission on a few topics. He said the Guide Dog Policy for the city of Glendale is still in the Attorney's Office for review. Mr. Strunk said at next month's meeting staff will provide the Commission with more information regarding the City staff's job duties and reveal the City's new structure. This will be on next month's agenda.

He said there were no calls received regarding disabilities or access.

Mr. Strunk added he would like the Commission to meet at the Adult Center to meet some of the patrons with disabilities that use the Center. Also, this weekend, March 21 and March 22, the Folk and Heritage Festival will be held at Sahuaro Ranch Park. He added this is a fun event which is free and the entire family is welcome to attend.

Vice Chairperson Fallucca asked if he could begin a funding campaign on a website. The Commission believes the website he explained would be acceptable to join and create an account for donations to the Commission. Mr. Strunk said he would ask Ms. Michelle Yates to provide information to the Commission in the near future.

Commission Comments and Suggestions

The Commissioners shared comments.

Mr. Strunk reassured the Commission that regardless of staff changes the Commission will continue to receive excellent support.

Commissioner Kumar suggested service animals should be tagged. Commissioner Hoerner said the animals have vests. Commissioner Mander said currently animals only need vests as they no longer need training certification.

Chairperson Hirsch said the Woman's Club is ready to donate the tree. They wish to have the tree planted at Elsie McCarthy Sensory Garden. Mr. Strunk said he would contact the

representative at the Woman's Club to see if they will work with the city to get the tree planted.

Adjournment

Commissioner Lesser made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chairperson Fallucca seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.