

COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Friday, May 4, 2007, 10:30 a.m.
Department of Liquor Control Conference Room

PRESENT: Michael Gleason, Vice-Chair; Laura Tobosa, Secretary; Denise Cowdrey, Jack Matsui, James Souza

EXCUSED: Lawrence Scadden, Chair

ABSENT: Jean Navarro, Ronald Wagner-Wright, Ted Yamanaka

GUESTS: Malina Dravis-Tucker, Interpreter; Lisa Duwall, Landscape Architect, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park; Teri Spinola-Campbell, ADA Coordinator (Equal Opportunity Officer)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m. An introduction of committee members, staff, and guests was made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

J. Matsui made a motion to accept the minutes of February 2, 2007. D. Cowdrey seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ISSUES

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was reviewed.

M. Gleason asked MCPD whether the committee will be able to spend the balance of the budget by the end of the fiscal year. T. Spinola-Campbell suggested that the police department may need funding to provide captioning for the Hawaii's Most Wanted program. L. Tobosa suggested that the volunteer parking violation enforcement program might need funding to purchase supplies. M. Gleason said that MCPD needs to encumber the funds by the middle of June. He asked J. Viernes to follow up with the Police Department.

L. Tobosa made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as submitted. D. Cowdrey seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

COMMUNITY LIAISON REPORTS

A. EDUCATION/PUBLIC AWARENESS LIAISON – M. GLEASON

No report.

B. RECREATION LIAISON – L. SCADDEN

No report.

C. TRANSPORTATION LIAISON – D. COWDREY

D. Cowdrey reported that she spoke to T. Brown for an update on door-to-door service for persons with disabilities. He mentioned that the service was going to happen in the first of the year and/or in June. But, she spoke to Tiffany Kai at Mass Transit last week and she said that the vehicles have not arrived and that it will not happen until January 2008. D. Cowdrey said she is assuming that the Arc of Hilo is doing some pick ups of participants as Goodwill Industries has been doing the same. Other agencies have to pick up the slots to provide transportation for people.

D. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS LIAISON – L. SCADDEN

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. VOLUNTEER PARKING VIOLATION ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE – SGT. D. VERIATO

Sergeant D. Veriato submitted program statistics for the Volunteer Disabled Parking Enforcement Program for January to March 2007.

M. Gleason asked how MCPD felt about the volunteer parking program. Is it working? Are we ever going to make it work like it should? Is there anything that MCPD can do besides keep inviting somebody to come and tell the committee what is happening?

D. Cowdrey said she does not know how we are going to get volunteers in East Hawaii if we don't recruit besides by word of mouth. T. Spinola-Campbell suggested getting a story in the Hawaii Tribune Herald to call attention to this issue.

D. Cowdrey suggested sending a letter to the Mayor recommending that MCPD is not seeing any action and the committee would like to see some action through the newspaper.

T. Spinola-Campbell mentioned that the Police Department started the police cadet training program to try and attract people that might not qualify to be police officers yet. Perhaps the committee might want to suggest to the Mayor that some of those people in the police cadet training program could volunteer for the volunteer parking program in East Hawaii.

J. Viernes stated that Sgt. D. Veriato will attend the MCPD meeting if requested by the committee. His responsibility is to provide a quarterly report to MCPD. MCPD

asked J. Viernes to contact Sgt. D. Veriato to attend the July meeting and provide an update on the volunteer parking program.

D. Cowdrey made a motion that MCPD send a letter to the Mayor addressing the issues about community policing. L. Tobosa seconded the motion. The motion was passed. M. Gleason to write the letter.

B. UPDATE FROM DCAB – C. FLEMING/N. OLESEN/C. TOWNSEND

The April and May report from C. Townsend, Program and Policy Unit Coordinator of DCAB, was distributed to MCPD members.

C. ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT – T. SPINOLA-CAMPBELL

T. Spinola-Campbell provided her report as the ADA Coordinator for April 2007. Since there was no March meeting, the report was sent to J. Viernes. ADA Coordinator's reports attached.

J. Matsui asked if there is a pathway going into Carlsmith Beach Park. T. Spinola-Campbell replied there is a pathway that was put in by the original property owners. There is no requirement for the pathway in the ocean under ADA. This person requested handrails and if the county can put them in, then a number of permits have to be filed. The handrails have to comply with ADAAG requirements. However, this park is not under the Transition Plan. The purpose of the Transition Plan is not to make every single facility you have accessible. It is to make key facilities accessible and provide program access.

D. PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT – A. MITCHENER

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

J. Matsui raised the issue again about the disabled parking stalls at the Hilo Shopping Center relocated to the other end of the parking lot. Disabled people are complaining that it's an inconvenience for them. J. Viernes pointed out that he raised this issue at the November 3, 2006 meeting and it's a private parking lot. T. Spinola-Campbell suggested he contact Disability Rights Hawaii since they deal with private businesses. The county cannot enforce the ADA with private businesses.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ISSUES

J. Souza reported that some of the deaf people are complaining that the TV show Hawaii's Most Wanted is not closed-captioned. Police says they are seeking funding for captioning and is offering a transcript of each episode to anyone meanwhile. But the deaf people and he are not convinced because in the past, many TV stations said captioning was pending when they actually didn't mean it. They couldn't help feeling being treated as second class citizens.

D. Cowdrey asked who sits on the program. T. Spinola-Campbell said it's her understanding that it's a production of Crime Stoppers and Na Leo 'O Hawaii with the Police Department hosting the program.

T. Spinola-Campbell mentioned that the program started again and she asked J. Souza if there is a message about the transcripts being available. J. Souza replied that he has not seen it and many deaf people told him that they saw that. T. Spinola-Campbell suggested that MCPD send a letter to the Police Chief or the Mayor to express their feelings. A letter to the Mayor would get the issue elevated at a higher level. If J. Souza is not happy with what happens within the county to complain, then he can go with other entities outside.

D. Cowdrey made a motion that collaboration between M. Gleason and J. Souza to write a letter to the Mayor regarding captioning for Hawaii's Most Wanted program. L. Tobosa seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

L. Duwall reported that they have funding in parks to have an assessment done for accessibility. Unfortunately, when they applied for the funding, it does not include programming. Instead of assessing all the physical facilities in the park, they will pick and choose and group physical facilities with programming or primary sites. In addition, they have a new person in the park who is an interpretive writer and designer. They have been working very hard on wheelchair grades and pavement, but they haven't been upgrading their signs for the blind or other types of experiences for everyone. The park is gearing up for a centennial celebration in 2016 and replacing a lot of old interpretive signs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

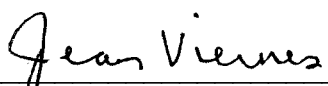
J. Souza announced that the State of Hawaii has a pilot test for the deaf and blind emergency evacuation warning. The deaf and blind people need to register with the State. It should be done during the month of May working with Civil Defense. An announcement will be sent out and it will be starting on Oahu.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, June 1, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. in the Kona Mayor's Office conference room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



JEAN VIERNES, STAFF SECRETARY