

Houston Commission on Disabilities

September 14th, 2023 — 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Housekeeping items:

- Provide instruction on ASL/Captioning and camera expectations for guests.
- If a commissioner is attending virtually, they need to have their camera on for voting.
- If you are attending in person, please refrain from side conversations, as there are sensitive microphones throughout the room, and we will hear you speaking.
- Individuals are encouraged to bring their computers to access the translating services.
- There is public WiFi in the building (TS-Web, no password)

Chair Meridith Silcox called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM with a quorum present and welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Chair Meridith Silcox asked Kayla Melcho to proceed with the roll call.

Roll Call of the Commissioners:

Position 1: Michael Cottingham	Absent
Position 2: Ricky Don Harris	Present
Position 3: Ann M. Bacon	Absent
Position 4: Daquan Minor	Absent
Position 5: Sashikala Nisankarao	Present
Position 6: Monique Mason	Present
Position 7: AJ Morton	Absent
Position 8: Vacant	Unfilled
Position 9: Mary Sias	Present
Position 10: Meridith Silcox – Chair	Present
Position 11: Lydia Nunez Landry	Present
Position 12: Michaela Cueto	Present
Position 13: Osvaldo Capmany	Present
Position 14: Alexis Smith	Present
Ex-Officio: Angel Ponce	Present

- Angel Ponce (Director, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities)
 - o Information and Referral Services – 95 cases last month
 - o Pedestrian Accessibility Review – 30 applications and 6 projects since last month
 - o Disability Emergency Preparedness Manager hired and starting next Monday.
 - o Program Assistant will be starting next month.
 - o Collaboration with JFS for the upcoming MMSC Garden Project

MMSC Report to the HCOD

- Nolan Griffin (Houston Parks and Recreation Department)
 - o Break on September programs for reorganization and inventory, programs will resume October 1.
 - o Shooting Tournament in Pasadena – Houston team won!
 - o Rugby and Volleyball begin next month.

Committee Updates

- Chair Silcox will be merging the committees to manage the workload more effectively. Updates will be reflected on the HCOD website.
- Community Access, Transit, and Housing
 - o Commission Mason shared Community Access in Housing Townhall at Lighthouse of Houston on Sept 20th from 4-5pm
 - o Commission Mason spoke to the director of Houston Houston Collaborative Team – will provide MOPD with more information
- Emergency Preparedness, Response, and First Responder Training
 - o VC Harris – Urban Security Initiative; working with OEM and Homeland Security for the Get It Right Workshop the second week of October. CERT class available that is open to the public for training emergency response teams
- Employment and Transition to Employment
- Education
 - o Director Ponce asked the employment committee about how MOPD can support with advocacy through the TEA takeover
- Immigration and Refugee Services
 - o *Will be paused moving forward*
- Planning, Membership, and Community Engagement

ADA Update (Marshall Watson, Administrative Coordinator – ADA, City of Houston, Human Resources Department, Civil Service & EEO Division)

- 15 in-take to city departments (email/phone call)

- 19 internal city accommodation requests (7 closed, 12 pending)

Upcoming Event Reminders

- a. MMSC Garden Project – Tuesday, Sept 19th 9AM
- b. MMSC Listening Session – Wednesday, Sept 20th 6:30PM
- c. Disability Celebration – Saturday, Sept 30th at 9:30AM (MMSC)
- d. White Cane Safety Day – Tuesday, Oct 10th 9AM (UH Downtown)
- e. Houston White Cane Safety Day – Saturday, October 14th (MMSC)

Meeting Schedule

- f. Location TranStar (6922 Katy Road, Houston, TX 77024)
 - i. October 12th (hybrid)
 - ii. November 9th (fully in-person with livestream on facebook)
 - iii. December 14th (fully in-person)

Commissioners Comments

Chair Silcox motions to adjourn meeting. Vice Chair Harris **seconds it. Meeting closes at 5:44 PM.**

Meeting Minutes recorded by Sissel Carlsen, sissel.carlsen@houstontx.gov.

Please email any corrections.