

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
March 23, 2011

The CODI Meeting was called to order by Mr. Martinez, Chairman at 1:40 pm. Roll call was done.

Attendance: **District 1 Commissioner Jordan:** John Miller;
District 2 Commissioner Monestine: Vacant Seat;
District 3 Commissioner Edmonson: Jose Granda;
District 4 Commissioner Heyman: Sandra Hix;
District 5 Commissioner Barreiro: Jose "Ernie Martinez (Chair);
District 6 Commissioner Sosa: Pedro Rodriguez;
District 7 Commissioner Gimenez: Jackson David;
District 8 Commissioner Bell: Paul Edwards;
District 9 Commissioner Moss: Ron Fulton;
District 10 Commissioner Souto: Dr. Sam Kohlenberg;
District 11 Commissioner Martinez: Denise Valkema;
District 12 Commissioner Diaz: Vacant Seat;
District 13 Seat: Alan Rigerman.

Absences: No one was absent.

Announcements: The Chair announced that Marie "Val" Schmidt has left CODI after having served for eight years. He went on to say that he thanked her for her dedicated and wise council.

Mr. Rigerman announced a meeting at the municipality of Pinecrest and asked the Chair to invite Mr. Aponte from the Department of Justice to come to a CODI meeting. He gave the Chair Mr. Aponte's contact information. Mr. Granda reported that President Obama will be speaking at Miami-Dade North campus' commencement ceremony at the end of April. Mr. Jackson reported that there will be a tournament of wheelchair basketball April 2nd and 3rd. Ms. Pina from the Epilepsy Foundation said that they have moved their office and there will be an open house on Thursday, March 24th; also they will be doing a fund raiser Walkathon on April 10th.

The agenda was approved with some discussion on the open forum. The Chair has decided to extend a two month trial on the open forum issue.

Chairman's Report : Chair reported that he had attended and spoken at the County Commission meeting where there was discussion on the Para-Transit pilot program involving the scan able card. He also attended the SCLAD open house for the dedication of their new building. The Chair talked about his desire to have CODI get involved in the municipalities. There was discussion. Chair had requested a meeting to discuss this; Mr. Rigerman, Ms. Valkema, Mr. Miller would like to be at the meeting.

Committee Reports: Access - Outreach/Education - Mr. Jackson said that the Access committee had met on March 10th. He said that the committee had decided not to support Commissioner Heyman's request for CODI's support of her parking reform. Mainly due to the fact that parking at Jackson memorial would be affected. There was discussion on this issue. Ms. Beltran from the Airport reminded CODI of the 2-3 hours of free parking for drop off and greet and meet. Mr. Jackson said he would bring that issue back to his committee on April 14th. **Motion made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Edwards to not support Commission Heyman's proposal. Motion passes.** Mr. Martinez will write the letter to Commissioner Heyman. Mr. Jackson next spoke about the Outreach/Education committee. He asked for comments about the brochure. Ms. Hix said it was too long and Mr. Granda in an email said it needed to have pictures and or a logo. He also announced that there will no longer be weekly meetings of the Outreach/ Education committee. Sandra Hix also said that there is not be a continuation of the weekly Transportation meetings.

Transportation – Ms. Valkema said that there were two transportation meetings in March. The issue of the STS tie downs has been resolved. The orange strap is the only optional strap. Bathroom cleanliness at the Metro-Rail stations has also been resolved. All bathrooms will be renovated with commercial fixtures as money becomes available. The first one which should be started shortly is the first floor bathroom at Government Center. Transit will review the maintenance of the Douglas station. **Motion made by Ms. Valkema and seconded Mr. Edwards to accept the transportation committee’s recommendation to accept the signage at the metro-Rail stations which is dark gray with white lettering which has a 90% contrast rating. The Motion passes.** An additional **Motion was made by Ms. Valkema and seconded by Mr. Edwards to recommend a letter to be sent to the County Commission and to the regional transportation Committee thanking them for their attention and action involving the Para-transit pilot project.** Mr. Martinez will write the letter; Mr. Miller gave Mr. Martinez a sample of the letter. Ms. Valkema said that the committee is still considering the English proficiency issue.

Housing: Mr. Martinez thanked Mr. Fulton for his involvement with the Community and suggested that he join the Outreach Committee and he stay on the housing committee. It was suggested that Mr. Fulton stay as the Co-Chair of the Housing Committee and also become the co-chair of the Access committee. Mr. Rodriguez asked to have a meeting with Mr. Fulton and Mr. Martinez asked to be included. Ilene Hyams asked Mr. Rodriguez to send her an email with his schedule as to the best times to meet and she would send out an email to the others so they could check their schedules.

New Business: Mr. Martinez asked those present who have not made a commitment to a standing committee to do so. Mr. Rigerman will join Access- Mr. Edwards will join Transportation – Dr. Kohlenberg will join housing – Mr. Granda will join Access-Ms. Larrieu will join housing- Ms. Solla will join Transportation- Ms. Pina will join Outreach/Education Ms. Dixon will join Housing. Ms. Fernandez will join Access.

There was discussion on participating with David New in October for the Disability Explosion. There was discussion on the April retreat. It was decided to have the retreat the morning of April 27th and then have the regular CODI monthly meeting that afternoon. Mr. Rodriguez offered SCLAD as a meeting place and he said he would supply lunch. Mr. Edwards will conduct the morning session; he will discuss parliamentary procedures and how to effectively run a meeting. The CODI bylaws will also be reviewed. The address for the retreat and meeting will be 250 E 2nd. Avenue from 9:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.

Mr. David made a Motion and Mr. Miller seconded that all signs at Miami-Dade County Parks which say no dogs be changed to say except service animals. The Motion was passed. Mr. David said that David New would be invited to an Access meeting so they might have more information on an issue Mr. New brought up on Miami Beach. There was some discussion on interrupted sidewalks.

Ilene Hyams was asked to research lengthening the CODI monthly meeting by one ½ hour.

Mr. Miller asked all CODI members who attending the marlins meeting to send their concerns or questions to Ilene Hyams who then can send it to Mr. Miller.

There was discussion on Ms. Mason’s concerns at Haulover Beach. The issue of electrical wheelchairs is referred to Access committee.

There was further discussion on the Public Forum. It was decided to defer to next meeting but Mr. Edwards wanted to have stated in the minutes that he feels the public needed to be heard at CODI meetings.

There was a brief discussion on the agenda. A member said that he thought the agenda was too long; it was suggested that committee chairs give Ilene Hyams their reports early so she might be able to send the information to the Chair who then may be able to produce a more concise and precise agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

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