

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

June 24, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Jose Martinez, second Vice Chair at 1:50 pm. Introductions were done. Minutes for May 2009 were accepted with two corrections: Ms. Hemingway Adams was expected in June not July and there was a grammatical error that was corrected.

Attendance: Ronald Fulton, Damian Gregory, Jose Martinez, John Miller, Jose Granda, Alan Rigerman, Dr. Sam Kohlenberg

Chairperson's Report: Damian Gregory reported on the RFP workshop concerning the new para-transit contract he attended on June 16th. He was dismayed that there was a lot of misunderstanding concerning the regulations among the Commissioners. He thought that the Commissioners should have called on CODI to address some of the misinformation. Betty McNally had asked CODI to write a letter or make a statement to the Commissioners that they should acknowledge CODI members present at the workshop and should have allowed the members to use that time to educate those present on Para-transit regulations. He said that he had attended a housing subcommittee meeting where HUD representatives were able to help the committee better understand housing issues. He also reported that he had attended the Access meeting and the meeting concerning the Miami Marlins Ballpark.

Old Business: Maude Gonzales and Jose Rodriguez were present from Transit and Steve Brunne was present from Cubic, the company picked to provide the integrated fare system. It was explained that the "easy card" can be read at a distance of about 2 inch. Several members were upset that Ms. Hemingway was not there and that there still wasn't an answer from Transit as to why CODI's recommendations were not implemented. CODI has been waiting since April for an answer to their inquiry. Maude Gonzales reported that many communities are using this technology but Chairperson Gregory said that if Transit came to CODI for a recommendation they should tell CODI why a recommendation was not able to be technically implemented. Betty McNally said that Transit should be doing everything they can to make the fix route system accessible so people may use that system instead of Para-transit. Mr. Wood brought up a Transit park & ride that is next to Target in south Dade. Maude Gonzalez said she can provide CODI with information as to why Transit configured the park & ride the way they did. There was a question about legal action. John Miller said that all meetings are public records.

The Chairperson brought up the Miami-Marlins Ballpark meeting. Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Alan Rigerman and seconded by Ronald Fulton to write a letter. Motion was passed unanimously.

Damian read a draft of a letter he had prepared. There was some discussion. Denny Wood was in support of the State's vertical access law; he didn't want CODI to make it easier for the Marlins to get a waiver.

Motion made by Ronald Fulton seconded by Ernie Martinez to send the draft letter which would support the design as shown to CODI on June 11, 2009. The motion passed unanimously. After the vote Ernie Martinez asked to change his vote. (By Robert's Rules of Order "members have the right to change their votes up until the time when the result is announced. After that point, a vote can be changed only by a majority vote of the assembly.")

New Business Ilene Hyams showed the members of CODI the newsletter that the Office of ADA Coordination sends to municipalities concerning the parking fine money. Heidi Johnson-Wright has streamlined the process by which municipalities request their share of the revenue from tickets driven from ticketing drivers who park illegally in accessible spaces. She also mentioned that their office is doing research in order to encourage less abuse of the placards. The office expects to have a document prepared in a few months which will outline changes to the placard process at a State level, as well as an educating component, and ways to prompt greater enforcement.

Ronald Fulton had asked for three letters to be written. Ilene Hyams asked who would write the letters so she could put that in the minutes. Ronald Fulton said that he felt the Office of ADA Coordination was not giving CODI enough support. Ilene Hyams started to explain that she has limited time to spend on CODI matters and that she can't be expected to be responsible for the general meeting and all the subcommittee meetings. The Chairperson asked for the discussion to stop and said that he would discuss this issue outside of the meeting.

Alan Rigerman spoke: he mentioned talking with the Federal representatives to deal with the "wrongs", Chairperson asked for Alan Rigerman to be more specific. Mr. Rigerman then mentioned parking and "200 feet" from entrances to buildings, the Deering estate, and enforcement of the accessible parking laws. He also mentioned the letter to the Marlins but no motion was made.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm