

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUE

October 22, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Damian Gregory Vice Chair of CODI at 1:35 pm. Ms. McNally was unable to be at the meeting due to illness. Introductions were done. The agenda was accepted with one addition: Mr. Edwards wanted to speak about Amendment 8. The minutes were accepted with one clarification: STS service into Broward is very limited- no service west of I95.

Chairperson's Report: No report was given. However, Mr. Gregory spoke briefly about the Commission meeting he attended concerning Commissioner Heyman's ordinance. The ordinance was withdrawn from consideration. There was some discussion. Mr. Gregory said that no-one ever said how many spaces would be increase if the ordnance did pass.

ACCESS/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: Denise Valkema reported on the AccessTransportation meeting that was held on October 15th. She went over issues that were discussed at the meeting. There was discussion on the application. Mr. Gregory thought a specialist would be needed to fill out the forms. Ilene Hyams said that only the reports were needed not the actual tests and a primary doctor would have had the reports sent to them by the specialist.

Motion made by John Miller and seconded by Ron Fulton to accept the application as presented. However after the application is revised the final edition is requested to go to CODI. Motion was passed unanimously. There was discussion on the no –show policy. The Access/Transportation Committee supports para-transit in the breakdown: three no-shows a warning is given by phone call – after six no-shows another warning by phone call and letter -after nine no-shows a suspension for 2 weeks by phone call. This would occur over a rolling 12 month calendar period. Some people thought this was much too lenient; other areas suspend for a month after three no-shows. Some cited the appeal process when other members were concerned about illegitimate no-shows. After more discussion, Ms. Valkema asked for this issue to go back to the committee for their meeting on November 18th at 4:00 at the Overtown Transit Building. Next issue was STS vehicles going down unpaved roads. There was discussion on this. Some said that once it was a policy there would never an incentive to encourage the paving of the road.

Motion was made by Denise Valkema and seconded by Marie Schmidt to approve the policy that STS vehicles will not go down unpaved roads. The Motion passed with one opposed.

Next there was discussion on people who are purged from the STS list after a year of non use. According to para-tansit there are 54,000 people on the list and it is difficult for the system to work efficiently because of the high number of people in the active data base and additionally it is felt some of these people are now ineligible to use the system. In committee this motion was passed but after much discussion a motion was made.

Motion made by Jackson David and seconded by Ronald Fulton to remove this policy from the Rider's Guide. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Williams from Public Works gave an overview of the audible pedestrian signals used in Miami Dade County. He spoke about the 4 intervals of the audible pedestrian signals but the discussion centered on one interval- the staccato interval. He said that he thought there was better directional guidance for a person who was visually impaired not to use the staccato sound. He also said that the Federal Highway Administration was coming out with guidance on this specific issue. Mr. Edwards stated that people who are visually impaired don't make their decision to walk based solely on the APS- they listen to traffic. He also said that the noise level on a busy street made the staccato easier to hear. He also said that advocate groups are working with the FHA to come up with good recommendations. After more discussion a motion was made.

Motion made by John Miller and seconded by Marie Schmidt to re-affirm the use of the staccato sound. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Williams asked CODI for an opinion on the flashing don't walk or a countdown. These are two different options. Can have a ticking sound like the locator sound or use an audible count down. **Motion made by John Miller and seconded by Marie Schmidt to recommend to Public Work the use of the countdown to inform pedestrians when it isn't safe to cross the street. Motion passed unanimously.**

New Business: Mr. Gregory said that the CODI website was inadequate. He thought that there should be more updated information. Ilene Hyams explained that their office doesn't have access to the website; only twice in a year can they have the County update the website. She asked what they would like to see in the website but noting was mentioned. Mr. Gregory would like this issue brought back to CODI next month. He would like a quorum so they can decide what type of information should be on the website about the individual CODI

members. He also asked that the Airport also be on the agenda. Ilene Hyams said that people have been waiting for the issue of the Single Family Rehabilitation Program to be put on the agenda and asks that issue also be on the agenda. Also the Sunset Review must also be on the agenda. There was a brief discussion about scheduling on meetings. Ilene Hyams was asked about emailing information on meetings to CODI members. Ilene Hyams said she would try but many times she doesn't have information on other department's meetings. Again she suggested they check the calendar of the County which is on the website. She also said that she had brought information to this meeting on CSHA, wheelchair taxis, and the smart card but there was no time to share this with CODI.

Mr. Edwards spoke briefly about Amendment 8

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.