

**MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUE**

**February 27, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Elizabeth McNally, Chairperson, at 1:50 pm. Introductions were done. The agenda was accepted. The minutes for January 2008 were approved with one correction: Mr. Wood felt he received an STS ride only after he threaded to call the police and go to the Miami Herald.

**Chairperson's Report:** Ms. McNally and Ms. Valkema went to Washington to advocate on blind issues and while there they visited the Department of Transportation's Office of Civil Rights. They had a long meeting with the Director who mentioned that if someone is having problems on fix transit; they should keep a diary and then notify them if the Transit agency isn't responding to complaints. She attended a North Miami Beach Disability Committee. The City of North Miami Beach has a gym geared to people with disabilities. She and Ray Watson will participate in an 8 week study of people with disabilities and weight loss. Ms. McNally reported that the Riders meeting was cancelled.

**Membership Committee:** Ms. McNally reported that Alan Rigerman has been appointed by Commissioner Seijas. Ilene Hyams heard from Commissioner Edmonson's office that Jose Granda will be appointed but she is waiting for the paperwork. Jackson David has had a phone conversation with Commissioner Gimenez's office and was told that the Commissioner would be calling him. Ms. McNally said we are still waiting for news on Manual Olivera. Mr. Olivera said that he enjoys coming and is it really necessary for him to be appointed. Mr. Gregory stated that while everyone's opinion is welcomed; being a CODI member allows a person to vote and participate in office opinions.

**Access/Transportation Committee:** Denise Valkema, Chairperson of the committee, read the minutes from the February 19, 2008 subcommittee meeting. Ilene Hyams read the two letters: Consumer Service letter to passenger services companies and wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion holders and the letter from Diego Feliciano, President of the South Florida Taxicab Association. There was much discussion on the problems with obtaining a wheelchair taxicab; Mr. Feliciano gave some needed history concerning the industry. The discussion began to leave the subject at hand and go to the appropriateness of CODI writing an ordinance and ideas as to how to fix the problem. Ilene Hyams mentioned that as an advisory board it is well within their scope to tell the County about a problem and offer some type of solutions but that departments or the County have the final word on the type of action needed to fix a problem. It was decided to have another subcommittee meeting to discuss this issue further.

**MOTION made by Damian Gregory and seconded by Sam Kohlenberg to allow the Access Transportation committee to write an official opinion to send to the County Commissioners and Consumer services concerning wheelchair taxicabs. Motion was passed unanimously.**

**Old Business:**

Ilene Hyams read the letters of responds from Elections and the Governor's office. Mr. Watson asked what will happen after 2012; will there be an accessible machine with a paper receipt? Damian Gregory suggested that David Evans, advocate who is blind, is involved in this issue and if anyone was interested Robert Wexler's ( Palm Beach District- district 19 ) office could be contacted since he is involved in this issue as a Florida congressman.

**New Business:**

Heidi Johnson-Wright gave an update on the ADA Office. She reported about the Court Access Project; all 14 surveys of the facilities have been accomplished and Tallassee is now asking for a transition plan. ADA office is working on making 39 polling sites more accessible by focusing on parking, path of travel, and doorways. She also reported that the office is doing outreach on White Cane and mobility laws as it relates to traffic. She will be taping Metro-Dade TV on this issue as well as the upcoming resource fair.

Ms. McNally expressed her sorrow on the death of Mac Glasgow. There will be a memorial on March 19 at 5:00pm in the Commission chambers to pay tribute for this well known advocate for disability issues. Mr. Feliciano spoke about the days when he picked up Mr. Glasgow at his home in Miami Spring and working with him to establish the STS program. Various other people spoke and it was mentioned that a Tri-Rail accessible train will be name for him and a possible plaque at the Airport Tri-Rail station. It was mentioned that LCB ( the Local Coordinating Board) was going to nominate Mr. Glasgow for a Transportation Disadvantage Commission posthumously recognition award.

Damian Gregory expressed his dismay at the committee's lack of follow through with the issue of evacuation in the Clark Center. He said after the electrical blackout during the week he was concerned about people being stuck without working elevators. Heidi Johnson-Wright reported that generators were working so the freight elevators worked in the Clark Center and that is how she got to the first floor. He would like CODI to look into this issue and will ask for a meeting concerning this issue. Marilyn Larrieu mentioned that the Mayor reported that people should be calling 311 to find out the latest information during the blackout but she found that she couldn't get through. It was said that the various people were unable to get through to 311. It was decided to send a letter to the County concerning the lack of 311 access.

Mr. Rigerman asked to have a few minutes on the March agenda. Ilene Hyams asked him to please call her so she would know how to schedule the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.