

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

**April 23, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Elizabeth McNally, Chairperson, at 1:45 pm. Introductions were done. The agenda was accepted. The minutes for March were accepted with one correction: Under old business the STS letters will be sent out not was sent out.

**Chairperson's Report:** Ms. McNally encouraged everyone to register for Envision the Possibilities – Assistive Technology Awareness event. May 1, May 2, and May 3 visit <http://ataware.net> or call 305-995-2632. She attended one VOAD meeting and a Rider's meeting. She also attended both the Taxi Cab Advisory Group meeting and the Taxi Cab workshop. She reported that she attended the Airport Access meeting. No decision has been made by the airport as to how they are going forward on the information in the Inspector General's report on accessible parking at the airport. Jackson David and Alan Rigerman both asked for the IG report. Ilene Hyams will send the report electronically; she asked if any other people would like the report.

**Access Transportation Report:** Ms. Valkema reported that the committee met and a letter was prepared that would go to the Commissioners, the Mayor, and Consumer Services. Ms. McNally read the letter. It was noted that the recommendations were developed for a more immediate fix and that CODI probably would comment on the upcoming lottery once Consumer Services develop the particulars of the lottery.

**Old Business:**

There was discussion on the accessible taxicab. David Naiditch said that he thought his call center could act as the central call center for the accessible cabs. Rita Kane, STS Manager, said she thought the call center would be better in a cab setting since her system has a completely different structure and suggested that the contract to provide dispatching didn't have to be in Miami but some good companies are outside the area.

Ms. McNally reported on the Resource Fair. She was happy that there were over 60 exhibitors but not everyone in CODI was present. It was recommended that lunch start at 1:00 pm rather than 11:30 am to encourage exhibitors to stay longer. It was also suggested to cut the hours from 9:00 to 2:00. Mr. Gregory suggested that agencies be encouraged to bring their consumers; there were fewer consumers than in past years. Mr. Granda thought the tables were too close together and more room was needed so people could get around the tables.

**Motion made by Alan Rigerman and seconded by Ronald Fulton to write a letter to Commissioner Seijas in support of putting the universal wheelchair sign on the baby carriage parking sign to alert people to the fact that a disabled person in need of an accessible parking may parking in a space identified as a baby carriage space. Motion was passed unanimously.**

**New Business:**

Parking issues were discussed. Officer Grossman from the City of Miami said that they use electronic ticketing and all State statutes are there. When asked about the new ordinance concerning cars parked on sidewalks, Lieut. Narango from Miami Dade Police said that the Miami Dade Police department lawyers are interpreting the ordinance as an enhancement of the regular accessible route law and requires that the vehicle must be in the proximity of the accessible parking space. There was some discussion because the intent of the new ordinance was different. A question was asked about priority of calls and he said that first priority would be an assault or robbery but they would respond to a parking violation if a car is blocking an access aisle, etc. However, Lieut. Cohen of City of Miami Beach said that they have a 24/7 parking division; he believes if called they come within 10 minutes. Ilene Hyams asked a question about civilians or tow truck drivers taking pictures of

violations. All police representatives thought that would be difficult for the lawyers of the departments to sanction.

**Motion made by Alan Rigerman and seconded by Ronald Fulton to write a letter to the County and the various municipalities Police Chiefs to encourage sworn and non-sworn personnel to enforce the disabled parking laws. Motion passed unanimously.**

Officer Grossman from City of Miami also said that giving the public information on the parking laws is also very important. It was stated that judges sometimes allow people who violate the parking laws to plead down their fines.

**Motion made by Alan Rigerman and seconded by Damian Gregory to write a letter to the Chief Judge of Miami-Dade County asking him to encourage the full punitive damages for people who violate the accessible parking laws. Motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. McNally asked about the White Cane law and the Mobility-Impaired Pedestrian law. She gave Lieut. Naranga a copy of the state bills associated with those laws.

Rita Kane reported that when STS riders receive their new application it will already be filled out with their individual information. She shared with CODI the new application. Damian Gregory asked for the new and old application. Ms. Kane will send it to Ilene Hyams and she will send it out. Ms Kane reported that there will be quarterly meeting to prepare for the 2010 RFP for the new STS contract. Ms. McNally asked for a copy of the old contract. The last scheduled STS Oversight meeting was cancelled because Commissioner Rolle was unable to attend. He would like to be at the next meeting so Ms. Kane is waiting on his schedule. There was discussion on emergency rides for people using motorized mobility devices when their van or wheelchair breaks down. David Naiditch, manager of ATS reported that he has the capacity to pick up people but if they aren't an active STS rider a supervisor needs to give permission for STS to pick up the person. Mr. Wood explained that he didn't want anyone else going through what he went through in order to get a ride home. First he couldn't get an accessible cab and then, although STS finally did pick him up, he was quite upset at the process. He was also angry that 311 didn't seem to have the right information. Ilene Hyams said that she would talk with the parties and try to get a clear understanding of what is available to people with disabilities. (Rita- people who are active or inactive may call STS if you are inactive you will need to speak with a supervisor to allow this one emergency trip. If you a person who has never used STS then you will need to call an accessible taxi cab or use fixed route which is accessible. A tourist should have called before they came so they could provide documentation of STS use in their state and then get a STS Miami number).

Ilene Hyams gave a quick overview of a new project she is involved in. She is on the accessible advisory board to a Easter Seal Project Action funded program to develop accessibility recommendations for BRT projects (Bus Rapid Transit). She said she would be bringing issues to CODI so they will be able to comment.

Announcements were read.

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