



Miami-Dade County

**Minutes**

**Commission on Disability Issues (CODI)**

*Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC)*

*111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Miami, Florida 33128*

*18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Conference Room 18-4*

	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, January 23, 2013</b>	
	<b>Time:</b>	1:30– 4:00 p.m. est.	
	<b>Call to Order Time:</b>	1:45 p.m. est.	
	<b>Meeting Adjourned:</b>	p.m. est.	
<b>I.</b>	<b><u>Opening and Attendance:</u></b> Attendance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were distributed		
	District 1 <b>Commissioner Jordan</b>	<b>John Miller</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair	<b>Absent</b>
	District 2 <b>Commissioner Monestime</b>	<b>Jackson David</b> Housing Committee Chair	Present
	District 3 <b>Commissioner Edmonson</b>	<b>Jose Granda</b> Access Committee Chair	Present
	District 4 <b>Commissioner Heyman</b>	<b>Earl Oaks</b> Employment Committee Chair	Present
	District 5 <b>Commissioner Barreiro</b>	<b>Jose (Ernie) Martinez</b> CODI Chairman	Present
	District 6 <b>Commissioner Sosa</b>	<b>Pedro Rodriguez</b>	<b>Absent</b>
	District 7 <b>Commissioner Suarez</b>	<b>Harry Horgan</b> Outreach/Education Chair	Present at
	District 8 <b>Commissioner Bell</b>	<b>Jesus Garcia</b> CODI Secretary and Transportation Committee Chair	Present
	District 9 <b>Commissioner Moss</b>	<b>Ronald Fulton</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair	Present
	District 10 <b>Commissioner Souto</b>	<b>Dr. Sam Kohlenberg</b> Membership Committee Chair	<b>Absent</b>
	District 11 <b>Commissioner Martinez</b>	<b>Denise Valkema</b>	<b>Absent</b>
	District 12 <b>Commissioner Diaz</b>	<b>Marilyn Larrieu</b> Housing Committee Co-Chair	Present
	District 13 <b>Commission Bovo</b>	<b>Alan Rigerman</b>	Present
	<b>Miami-Dade County Staff Present</b>	<b>Dianne Steinberg</b> ISD, Administrative & Business Services Division Recording Secretary  <b>Heidi Johnson-Wright</b> ISD, ADA Coordinator  <b>Marcos Ortega</b> Transit, ADA Coordinator	Present  Present

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		<b>Albert Hernandez</b> Transit, Assistant Director of Engineering Planning and Development	
<b>II.</b>	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	CODI Chairman Ernie Martinez requested a motion to approve the January agenda. Motion to approve was made by Jesus Garcia; seconded by Marilyn Larrieu. Motion passed.	
	<b>Approval of CODI Minutes</b>	Minutes' drafts for the CODI meetings held in September, October and November 2012 were distributed in hard copy format to the CODI members. Chairman Martinez requested that their approval be postponed until the February 2013 meeting so that they can be sent in electronic form to all CODI members first.	
<b>III.</b>	<b>Opening Comments</b>	<p>Anita Holmes, WAAIVE</p> <p>Ms. Holmes said she works in communities such as Opa-Locka, Liberty City, and Homestead with women in transition, disabled women, veterans and incarcerated persons in education, advocacy and support services. She voiced concerns regarding proper bus services on the Bus 21 route in those communities and the increasing number of persons with disabilities utilizing this route. She has been inundated with complaints from persons using STS. Ms. Holmes stated that the STS bus drivers don't assist riders and due to her disability, twice a day she must start her bus travel two hours early. She said that STS has no proper complaint system and that STS drivers do not complete OSHA requirements nor do they have CPR or first aid training for a medical emergency.</p>	
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Old /New Business</b>	<p><i>3 minutes each speaker (Advance Notice Preferred)</i></p> <p><i>No public comments at this time</i></p>	
	<b>Information Items</b>	<p>Patricia and Philip Frost Museum of Science: Gillian Thomas, CEO</p> <p>Ms. Thomas made a presentation to CODI regarding the new Science Museum facility being constructed in Museum Park. The Museum is scheduled to open in 2015. The Science Museum is a public/private partnership with \$165 million in General Obligation Bond funding. The museum administration is raising an additional \$100 million from private funds.</p> <p>The existing museum and the new museum's main purpose is to inspire people, helping them better understand themselves and assist with the dissemination of practical information to make their lives better through science and technology.</p> <p>The facility, the exhibits and the educational programs are based around three broad themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>People:</b> This translates to health and wellness, areas that improve people's lives.</li> <li>2) <b>The Planet:</b> Our environmental resources in this special place between the Everglades and the ocean, including environmental health and sustainability.</li> </ol>	

	<p>3) <b>Science and technology jobs:</b> Supplying a pipeline of people in these sectors thereby providing prosperity for them and the community.</p> <p>Ms. Thomas said that the building is an exhibit in its own right. People can explore the building on-line or in person. It is an intelligent building and an example of best building practices. It will have solar panels, lots of open space and open air exhibits.</p> <p>By working with Wayne Meyer, an ADA consultant, they are ensuring that the museum and all of its exhibits are accessible to people with disabilities and small children.</p> <p>Every section of the building will have an interesting activity. The building has a green roof and is energy sensitive, incorporates hydroponics for growing vegetables, an exercise trail and includes a venue to view the stars at night. The Planetarium is also environmentally friendly. Any water on the adjacent road will soak into a wetland or into two systems and will be re-used in the building.</p> <p>The Science Museum and the Art Museum constitute Museum Park and they share a plaza in between. Additionally, Miami-Dade County is renovating the Metro Mover station for train access to the site. There is an elevator to allow people to the plaza level about 22 feet above sea level. There is ramp up to a living core with a café and two wings with exhibitions and the Perez Art Museum. The facility is located near the American Airlines Arena.</p> <p>Visitors can park under the two museums, then access the museum via a ramp or elevator to the entrance. It is a welcoming and inviting interconnected campus and community meeting place, designed with an open building concept. All the passageways have been designed to exceed standard width to ensure access for wheelchair users and people pushing double strollers. The Museum includes an energy playground, balconies and exhibits, the Living Core and a café overlooking the park.</p> <p>Located at the top of the Living Core is a special place for small children called the “River of Grass” with a waterfall looking into the everglades, viewable day or night. This aquarium – one hundred feet across -- is a journey through South Florida containing three different habitats. “Great Vistas” shows reef to the sandy shores with free flying birds, and to the mangroves. The museum will integrate a series of tactile and audible exhibits. They will also have a Sea Lab where visitors can perform experiments. There are touch tanks called the “Hardwood Hammocks.” Visitors can climb under these and see tortoises and burrowing ants. Also visitors can hoist themselves to the top of the canopy and see alligators, crocodiles and snakes. Once inside, it is wheelchair assessable.</p> <p>Ms. Thomas said that museum staff is exploring different ways of doing exhibit interpretation, with all materials bilingual and some Braille handouts. They are looking into Q R (Quick Response) codes, which are 2D codes that contain info that can be read by a QR code reader, such as a smart phone. Readers can be downloaded to mobile devices with a</p>
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		<p>camera and web capabilities. QR codes are often used to link the user to a web address, but can also contain phone numbers to make a phone call or send a SMS text message, or enter up to 250 characters of text on to your mobile device. They are exploring text for video that would stream to communicate because in the exhibits, sound is not a useful way of interpreting.</p> <p>One floor down is “The Deep” containing the “Magic Planet,” a 30 foot window angled for visitors to view the light and animals as if in the Gulf Stream. It is available as a party space at night with fish under visitors’ feet. There is also a “People in Science Gallery” that will have games on tables, some projected with a virtual restaurant.</p> <p>The Planetarium space is on an incline with space for seating at the front and back with wheelchair accessibility. The exception is the middle section. All seating is free and they are considering companion seats. The seats have not been purchased as of yet. This space can be used for presentations and talks.</p> <p>Jose Granda inquired about areas that look dark and that some people with visual disabilities may be unable to read the exhibits or be comfortable. She advised that the facility will have a comfortable amount of light, including lighting bars that adjust the amount of light. Additionally, there are ongoing discussions regarding the new LED lights that have a directional focus.</p> <p>Harry Hogan inquired about job opportunities for people with disabilities and the possibility of providing of internships at the Science Museum. Ms. Thomas added that they have many part time staff that frequently volunteer first. The jobs are advertised and the best qualified applicants are selected.</p>
	Access Committee	<p><b>Julio Martinez, ADA Coordinator, PWWM</b></p> <p>Mr. Martinez said PWWM does not want to miss the opportunity to help people with Disabilities in Miami-Dade County with accessibility issues regarding routes where the sidewalks are destroyed. Dave Gregory inquired about the GIS layer. Mr. Martinez said that he did not think it was yet developed fully but PWWM has worked through different routes, with priorities from active to less active routes.</p> <p>Mr. Martinez stated that one of those issues was at the SW 60 Ave. and South Miami Hospital and involved the cross slop and lack of accessibility around power poles. PWWM has been in discussion with FPL and South Miami Hospital. This will cost FPL \$1 million. He added that they learned that a project manager has just built a sidewalk and this will be reviewed next week.</p> <p>Chairman Martinez asked Mr. Martinez if issues about bicycle paths are issues PWWM deals with. A discussion ensued regarding this issue and Dave Gregory used the example that at 136 Street behind the Falls shopping center, there is a wide lane for traffic and a bicycle path on one side of street and not on the other. Heidi Johnson-Wright advised to email</p>

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		<p>her and she will forward issues on. Chairman Martinez stated that the CODI Access Committee should strategize with Mr. Martinez, over the next few months regarding shared paths. Ms. Johnson-Wright added that the Miami Beach's beachwalk is a good example of an accessible shared use path.</p>
	Outreach Committee	<p>Harry Horgan discussed the issue of branding Miami as the most accessible tourist destination Mr. Hogan added that Next Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29, 2013 Shake a Leg is teaming up with Spirit of America to have regulators discuss how to serve kids with Autism. They are also planning an annual conference in December 2013 with leaders around the globe to make programs more accessible.</p>
		<p><b>Elections Issues</b></p> <p>Jose Granda spoke about Elections and the need to improve Election ballots. The line for elections was too long and reducing ballot length would make it better for everyone.</p> <p>Heidi Johnson-Wright said a report was published in the Miami Herald by the Mayor's task force and included recommendations to increase the number of days for early voting. There have some bills that have been introduced in the State Legislature.</p>
		<p><b>MIA Issues</b></p> <p>Also MIA has finally set up lights for the walkway. There are flashing lights and it is a great improvement.</p>
	Adjournment	Meeting ended 4:00 p.m.