



**City of Oakland**  
Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)  
Monday, June 21, 2021

**MINUTES**

**NOTE:** Approved minutes and video recordings are posted at <https://www.oaklandca.gov/boards-commissions/mayors-commission-on-persons-with-disabilities/meetings>

**Commissioners:** Noah Smith (Chair), Thomas Gregory (Vice Chair), Reid Davenport, Cathy Eberhardt, Marjorie Lynne, Karen Nakamura, Frank Sperling, and Howard Tevelson

**Commission staff:** Anh Nguyen, ADA Programs Division Manager; Karen Denicore, ADA Program Analyst I

**Presenters:** Nicole Ferrara, Ofurhe Igbinedion, Megan Wier, Olga Crowe, Kelly Nguyen

**Other attendees (from webinar Attendee list):** Sheela Gunn-Cushman, Helen Walsh, Laura Lane, Molly Bloom, Alison Flower, Patricia S., Olivia Asuncion AIA/YARD Northern California, Chonita Chew United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County, Ayanna Keeton, Elizabeth "Libby" Faltis

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Smith at 7:35. At roll call, quorum was established with 7 of eight commissioners present (x) and 1 was late.

Commissioners	Present (x)
Noah Smith (Chair)	x
Thomas Gregory (Vice-Chair)	late
Reid Davenport	x
Cathy Eberhardt	x
Marjorie Lynne	x
Karen Nakamura	x
Frank Sperling	x
Howard Tevelson	x

## 2. Open Forum

- Sheela Gunn-Cushman has found the Oakland City Budget Community Engagement process to have accessibility issues and has attempted to address it. She is also interested in current information on the scooter program.
- Ayanna Keeton is an Oakland native and lifelong resident who lives in East Oakland and works at Easy Does It. She has applied to serve on the commission.
- Helen Walsh reminded the commission that June 22<sup>nd</sup> is the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Olmstead Decision, the most important civil rights decision for people with disabilities in our country's history.
- Chonita Chew is with USOAC and announced that the Healthy Living Festival will be held on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Oakland Zoo.

3. Agenda unanimously approved with a motion from Commissioner Sperling and a second from Commissioner Gregory.

4. May 2021 Minutes unanimously approved with a motion from Commissioner Gregory and a second from Commissioner Sperling.

## 5. Commissioner's Announcements

- Commissioner Eberhardt is working with affordable housing developers on accessible housing availability for PWDs and unhoused PWDs and would like questions from the Commission and the public forwarded to [Adaprograms@oaklandca.gov](mailto:Adaprograms@oaklandca.gov).
- Commissioner Ryan has resigned from MCPD.
- Commissioner Lynne has stepped down from her co Vice Chair position.
- Commissioner Gregory is now the sole Vice Chair.

6.MCPD concerns regarding OPD for Commissioner Tevelson to bring to the Police Commission.

***Action Item: With the final approval of the Chair, Commissioner Tevelson may send a letter to the Police Commission on behalf of MCPD.***

- Commissioner Tevelson has drafted a letter to the Police Commission concluding “Mayor’s Commission on Persons with Disabilities would like the Police Commission to support us to demand OPD include mandatory training on invisible disabilities and put policies and procedures in place to assure that persons with disabilities are ALWAYS offered "a reasonable accommodation" for a disability, as required by law.”
- Commissioner Gregory made the motion that, with the final approval of the Chair, Commissioner Tevelson may send the letter on behalf of MCPD. It was seconded by Commissioner Sperling and unanimously approved.

7. Telegraph Ave Complete Streets Project, 20<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Street

***Action Items: A sub-committee will review the history of MCPD participation and input to the OakDOT Complete Streets project, specific to Telegraph Avenue from 20<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Street, to decide how MCPD wishes to address the decision and advise the chair and vice chair.  
The sub-committee will meet with OakDOT Director and project planner before the plan is presented to the City Council.***

Chair Smith asked for volunteers to participate on a sub-committee to review the history of MCPD participation and input to the OakDOT Complete Streets project, specific to Telegraph Avenue from 20<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Street. The goal is to decide how MCPD wishes to address the decision to change the current, always temporary, parking and bicycle lane design and advise the chair and vice chair. City Council plans to vote on the issue in early July and MCPD would like an in person (online) meeting with OakDOT before the vote. Commissioners Nakamura, Sperling and Tevelson volunteered. Two attendees, Sheela Gunn-Cushman and Helen Walsh, also expressed an interest and willingness to work with MCPD on this issue in the future. The question also came up as to whether or not

this change would apply to the entire Telegraph corridor project going forward.

## 8. Safe Oakland Streets

***Action Items: Chair Smith will look in to AB43 and discuss a letter of support from MCPD with the vice chair.***

Nicole Ferrara presented the Safe Oakland Streets project and the prioritization of the identified High Injury Network in planned and future Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). She then took questions and comments.

- Is there lobbying going on for AB43 (supported by the project) on the state level? Yes, AB43 has made it though the house and is going to the senate and the city lobbyist is working actively on the project. There is a portal for letters of support and Nicole can provide it for the commission,
- The goals seem vague. “Create a policy to expedite....” feels like creating a policy to make a policy.
- Do we actually know the root causes of accidents and is lowering the speed limit the answer? We know speeding and failure to yield are significant causes but street design and driving culture also contribute greatly.
- Do you consider alternatives to naturally slow down the traffic such as trees in the median? Yes when it is possible but these full street projects are costly and a current estimate just received shows the cost at \$35 million per mile.
- Will AB37 eliminate the need for traffic survey studies? In some cases, business districts (strictly defined) and senior zones, yes it will.
- What about speeding around schools in residential districts? Looking only at fatalities and not counting the near misses could leave them out. Yes, AB37 will be able be used to address this.

- This is unequivocally relevant to the commission and it is a huge issue. Thank you for starting to chip away at this as it is relevant to everyone. As a person who uses a wheelchair, I can verify that the situation is urgent.
- Chair Smith will follow up on this by looking in to AB43 and discussing a letter of support from MCPD with the vice chair.

## 9. 2021 Emergency Operations Plan Updates and Activities

Kelly Nguyen, Emergency Planning Coordinator, described updated plans, projects, and policy for emergency preparedness and emergency shelter activation.

Commissioner comments and questions included:

- Issues with inconsistency of how mental health issues are included and presented from slide to slide.
- Request that persons with mental health disabilities be fully included across the board and receive the same level of accommodations and those with mobility issues.
- Incorrect and redundant examples including substance abuse described as a mental illness, lack of inclusion of multiple invisible disabilities including cancer, multiple sclerosis, and diseases causing chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia incorrectly described.
- Problems with some language used such as describing some as needing “supervision” and using the word fragile, as well as first person language not necessarily being considered the most appropriate in all situations.
- Not enough information about transportation, whether it will actually be provided, and what is available in terms of wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs).
- Unclear on the purpose of listing the elements of culture (slide 28)
- The slideshow states the trainees will learn how to support the needs of PAFN and it does not do that.

- Commissioners stated that the ERCs needed refrigeration for medication, and the ability to address and manage food allergies
- Charging stations for life support, mobility, and communication devices should be readily available.
- Clearly posted signs should be up and information clearly available with the understanding that people in difficult situations are coming into an unfamiliar situation and environment.
- The training slides presented felt very condescending to the disabled community and the trainees. They were “othering” of PWDs and do not seem at all perceptive of what people with disabilities go through. How is this going to help disabled people? There is a suggestion that training developers should talk with disabled professionals who do disability competency for a living. Although they may have better training modules to offer, it is still not possible to train cultural competency in a single session.

#### 10. Staff Updates and Announcements / Future Agenda Items

<p><b><i>Action Items: Discuss post pandemic meeting format at future meeting</i></b></p>
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- We have been interviewing candidates for MCPD and have some excellent applicants attending this meeting. We have several vacancies and welcome referrals to the commission.
- Grand Avenue Mobility Plan is holding two virtual West Oakland Focus Groups next week.
- MCPD requests that a discussion of preferences for future meeting format past the pandemic shut down be put on the agenda.

#### 11. Adjournment