

City of Oakland
Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)
Monday, September 16, 2019

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 5:36 p.m.
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comments
 - None
4. Agenda Modification and Approval
 - Motion to approve agenda without modification: Gregory
Seconded by Ryan
Aye - 6: Gregory, Lynne, Meu, Nakamura, Ryan, Tevelson
5. Approval of August 19, 2019 Minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes without modification: Gregory
Seconded by Tevelson
Aye - 6: Gregory, Lynne, Meu, Nakamura, Ryan, Tevelson
6. Chair Report; *Karen Nakamura, Chair*
 - Commissioner Meshack resigned as of today for personal reasons. Chair Nakamura expressed gratitude for the perspectives he brought representing many communities.
 - Annual MCPD retreat will be held Saturday, October 19 at Cesar Chavez Library, 3301 E. 12th St., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - October 21 MCPD meeting is now cancelled.
7. Commissioner's Announcements
 - Chair Nakamura shared the following updates from Commissioner Meshack:
 - His project pertaining to Measure KK has been resolved to his satisfaction.
 - He also shared articles from Paraplegia News on adaptive equipment for bicycles and playgrounds.

- Commissioner Gregory updated that the \$500,000 of Measure W funds for home modification programs are now available. He is awaiting a response from Housing and Community Development staff about whether wait times have been cut.
8. Access and Services for Persons with Disabilities in the Homeless Community in Oakland: *Joe DeVries, Assistant to the City Administrator and Talia Rubin, Program Analyst, Community Housing Services, Human Services Department*
- Mr. DeVries explained that homelessness touches all departments. He coordinates prevention, intervention, and long term solutions across departments within the City of Oakland and with partners at county, state, nonprofit, and other levels. Efforts also include ensuring ADA access on sidewalks.
 - Expanding prevention services will help people keep their housing.
 - Intervention involves encampment management, includes health and hygiene intervention, community cabins, safe parking, additional shelter beds, etc.
 - The key long-term solution is to increase affordable housing, especially for those with incomes at or below 20 percent of area median income (AMI).
 - Ms. Rubin is the homeless outreach manager for City of Oakland and coordinates with various agencies, including grant-funded nonprofit organizations.
 - The latest point-in-time count shows a population of 4,071 homeless in Oakland. That is a 69 percent increase from 2017 to 2019.
 - Among individuals who have accepted assistance from the City and partner agencies and are thus in the homeless management system, 20 percent self-reported as having disabilities. All agencies work diligently to accommodate those with special needs.
 - Mr. DeVries and Ms. Rubin responded to questions from Commissioners and two speakers from the public as follows:

- The top reasons, based on self-reporting, for losing housing are low income and lack of affordable housing. There currently is no data on how many persons with disabilities are homeless due to lack of accessible housing, especially for wheelchairs. Ms. Rubin's work is focused on crisis management, so for a broader set of data, she suggested contacting Everyone Home, www.everyonehome.org.
 - In terms of preventing assault of women who are homeless, the community cabin model will probably move towards cohort-specific. Currently, there are no background checks, citizenship requirement, or other criteria that could discriminate. There will be continued efforts among staff to intervene and assist individuals as needed.
 - Outreach staff and services from partner agencies are available in locations like libraries, which homeless persons visit often.
9. Downtown Oakland Specific Plan (DOSP) Update: *Ed Manasse, Deputy Director, and Laura Kaminski, Acting Strategic Planning Manager, Planning and Building Department*
- Mr. Manasse stated that the Planning Department is near the end of the five-year process for the DOSP, which started in 2015. The presentation today is part of an extensive outreach process to gather feedback on the latest documents:
 - DOSP Draft Plan
 - DOSP Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
 - Based on feedback from previous visits to MCPD and other disability advocacy groups, the general key concepts regarding accessibility are as follows:
 - Use the DOSP to make visible and disaggregate by disability as well.
 - In terms of housing, visitability of new housing is important, and where possible, reducing displacement by making existing housing more accessible.

- In regards to mobility, the focus is on sidewalk management. Also, although the City does not have jurisdiction over BART elevators, by elevating it in the DOSP, the hope is to get the attention of BART and work with partners to improve accessibility of elevators, including during special events.
- In community health, the DOSP is looking at requiring universal design in all new playgrounds downtown and having people with disabilities review public realm improvement designs.
- Economic opportunity and culture keeping includes being explicit about the need for an inclusive workforce and business community, including people with disabilities.
- In the current DOSP draft plan, the goals are as follows:
 - Economic opportunity:
 - Further invigorate downtown as a major regional employment center by bringing up to 20 million square feet of new commercial space over next 20 years to bring about 50,000 new jobs downtown
 - Accessibility policies focus on providing affordable space for entrepreneurs, small local retailers, artists, and artisans by exploring the land trust model as well as expanding the master leasing effort to sublease through a curated process to small business businesses and nonprofits using criteria such as length of residency in Oakland, economic status, and disability status
 - Housing affordability:
 - Triple the downtown residential population over the next 20 years by bringing 29,000 new housing units on opportunity sites for new development (mostly parking lots and underutilized non-historic property) with the goal of 4,000 to 7,000 of those units as permanently affordable
 - New funding sources for affordable and accessible housing

- Accessibility policies center around requiring a height standard in retrofit and new construction
 - Citywide design standard or amendments to existing city ordinances to strengthen accessibility requirements
- Mobility:
 - Design and construct connectivity and access improvements through downtown
 - Improve pedestrian amenities and security at bus stops
 - Maintain reliable ADA access to transit stations
 - Expand the Park Oakland parking program to better ensure parking availability and increase accessible parking and passenger loading downtown for people with disabilities.
 - Reduce the number of drivers looking for parking and balance the need of curb space.
 - Make 100 percent of corners and curb ramps in downtown ADA-compliant by 2040 (from current 59 percent) including with directional curb ramps rather than single curb ramps
 - More blue zone parking
 - Additional streetscape, lighting, and signage
- Culture keeping:
 - Leverage and protect Oakland's diverse cultures with innovation and economic growth by establishing or enhancing culture districts: Art Garage District, Black Arts Movement, Chinatown, Old Oakland, etc.
 - Citywide help with marketing, branding, area identification, potential small grants
- Community health:
 - Accessibility-related policies focus on drafting and adopting guidelines for new and improved park and open spaces, including universal design

principles for public spaces and playgrounds that make them more accessible to persons with disabilities of all ages

- Land use and urban form:
 - Ensure that new development does not interfere with accessibility of streets and public spaces
 - Minimize impacts to small businesses
 - Establish an Implementation Committee with broad representation of residents, including underrepresented populations (youth, older adults, persons with disabilities, etc.) as stakeholders to monitor and assess the implementation of this and other specific plans
 - Implementation Committee would provide annual reports to the Planning Commission and City Council
- Commissioners gave the following feedback:
 - Caretaker workforce housing needed for persons with disabilities
 - Address disability access around railroad tracks in Jack London Square
 - Visitability bonus, e.g. add three more floors
 - Harden assembly rooms of schools downtown for environmental impacts on community health, e.g. air quality shelters
 - More HVAC beyond buildings near freeways

10. MCPD Social Media Guidelines: *Commissioners Marjorie Lynne and Noah Smith*

- Commissioners Lynne and Smith presented proposed accessibility guidelines and content guidelines based on researched best practices for commission members when posting to the MCPD Facebook page and other social media.
- These guidelines will be further discussed and voted on at a future MCPD meeting.

11. Staff Updates and Announcements: *Anh Nguyen, ADA Programs Division Manager*

- There will be updates at future meetings.

12. Future Agenda Items

- A. Objective 1.1: Accessibility in the Bike Share Program
- B. Objective 1.2: Disabled Parking Spaces and Abuse of Disabled Parking Placards
- C. Objective 1.3: Accessibility of Fixed-Route Transit Systems in Oakland
- D. Objective 1.4: Reliability and Customer Service of Paratransit Systems in Oakland
- E. Objective 1.5: Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles in the Taxi Program and Transportation Network Companies
- F. Objective 1.6: Oakland's Complete Streets Program
- G. Objective 2.1: Oakland Police Department Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)
- H. Objective 2.2: Oakland Fire Department, Emergency Management Services Division Overview of Methods for Addressing Access and Functional Needs During an Emergency and Natural Disasters
- I. Objective 3.1: Update on Community Outreach
- J. Objective 4.1: ADA Transition Plan, including Curb Ramp and Sidewalk Repair
- K. Objective 4.2: Equitable Prioritization of Measure KK Funds for Public Infrastructure Improvements
- L. Objective 5.1: Measure KK Funds for Home Modifications to Enhance Accessibility
- M. Objective 5.2: Identify and Reduce Number of Homeless Persons with Disabilities in Oakland

13. Adjourned at 7:38 p.m.