



**Municipality of Anchorage  
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES**

February 14, 2013

**I Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the ADA Advisory Commission was called to order by the Chair, David Ziemer, at 1:04 p.m. on Thursday, February 14, 2013 in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room at 825 L Street, Department of Health and Human Services.

**II Roll Call**

Role call was conducted by Chair Ziemer as follows; a quorum was in attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	GUESTS
<b><u>Commissioners</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• David Barton, Chair</li><li>• Leroy Reid</li><li>• Christine King</li><li>• David Ziemer</li><li>• Holli Yancey</li><li>• Lynne Koral</li></ul> <b><u>Municipal Staff</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lynda Meyer, DHHS</li><li>• Cindy Herr, DHHS</li><li>• Pamela Basler, ERC</li></ul>	<b><u>Commissioners</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lindsay Davison</li></ul> <b><u>Unexcused</u></b>  <b><u>Municipal Staff</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Susan Shiffer, DPT</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Karen Bretz, MOA Boards &amp; Commissions Liaison</li><li>• Ramona Snyder</li></ul>

**III Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved, motion to approve by Mr. Barton, seconded by Dr. Reid.

**IV Approval of Minutes**

The January 8, 2013 minutes were approved with a correction, motion to approve by Ms. King, seconded by Ms Yancey.

**V Public Comments**

None

**VI Guest**

Ramona Snyder

- Ms Snyder expressed her concern regarding businesses being out of compliance with ADA codes within the Municipality of Anchorage. Handicap parking is to have

no ice, snow or gravel. She has filed lawsuits against businesses in the Municipality to force them to comply with existing ADA codes regarding parking lots. She is frustrated with the process and believes the Municipality and ADA Commission should be doing more to enforce the current ADA codes.

- Mr. Barton clarified that the ADA Commission has only an advisory capacity within the Municipality and is not the enforcement arm for existing ADA codes. The Commission presents a report to the Assembly and Mayor annually advising them of the concerns of the Commission. Title 21 also addresses the parking lot issue.
- Ms. Koral commented that filing lawsuits is what you may need to do to force change. The Commission may advise a business of what they should do; that they will listen is another.
- Chair Ziemer explained that the Municipality has authority to enforce codes through permitting for new construction. Existing construction is more difficult to enforce and control.
- Ms. King thanked Ms. Snyder for what she has accomplished. The Americans with Disabilities Act is a complaint driven process. Recommended contacting the Municipalities Administration, American Civil Liberties Union or the Department of Justice.
- Ms. Basler explained the Equal Rights Commission complaint process and gave her contact information to Ms. Snyder.
  - Action Item: Mr. Barton will send the Commission Title 10, paragraph 4; regarding parking lot requirements to the Commission.

## VII Municipal Reports

Lynda Meyer, Program Manager, Aging and Disability Resource Center

- This is Ms. Meyers fifth year with the Municipality; overseeing the Aging and Disability (ADRC) grant in the Senior Services program. In addition she serves as the Emergency Preparedness Vulnerable Populations representative for the Department of Health and Human Services. Lynda and her staff provide information to seniors, persons with disabilities or their representative on how to start setting up assistance and housing. For the economically challenged this means assisting with the Social Security's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) application. Ms. Meyer provided the State of Alaska's health overview for persons with disabilities for the Commission to review. Ms. Meyer is requesting input about persons with disabilities and a letter of support from the Commission for the new Request for Proposal (RFP) for the upcoming ADRC grant.
- Ms. Koral motioned to for the Commission to write the letter; Ms. King seconded.

## **VIII Updates from chair**

- Chair Ziemer informed the Commission that during the course of attending his son's swim meet; he had the opportunity to speak to the municipality manager who was working on the upgrades to make the Municipality of Anchorage's pools accessible.

## **IX Old Business**

### AK Deaf Community

- Mr. Barton informed the Commission that the Office of Emergency Management is collaborating with the signer practicing the script to the disaster preparedness videos for the hearing impaired. It should be available for viewing at the next Commission meeting.
  - **Action Item: Mr. Barton will bring the video when completed to the next Commission meeting.**

### Service Dogs

- Ms. Koral introduced her new service animal. The Commission discussed the proper protocol to observe; it is to ignore them. They are doing a job. Ms. Koral has the most difficulty in public as people want to pet the dog, feed her treats and call her. Ms. Yancey noted that there is more signage in Anchorage stating service animals are welcome.
- Mr. Barton notified the Commission that the advocates working on recommended guidelines for updating the service animal laws have completed a draft.
  - **Action Item: Mr. Barton will bring the draft to the next Commission meeting.**

## **X New Business**

- None

## **XII Announcements**

- Ms. Yancey was introduced to the Commission as their newest Commissioner; all Commission seats have been filled.

## **XIII Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:19 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 1:00 pm in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room, at the Department of Health and Human Services located at 825 L Street.