

**MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION ON AGING AND DISABILITIES**  
**OCTOBER 13, 2008 – 5:30 PM**  
**Wells Center, 1153 East Madison Avenue**  
**El Cajon, CA**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Martinez calls the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Martinez leads the group in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners present: Marty Martinez, Pat McDonnell, Tricia Mattingly and Ben McDill

Commissioners absent: Janet Light

Staff members present: Sara Ramirez, Recreation Services Manager (RSM); Dennis Davies, Deputy Director of Public Works; Susie Lowe, Recreation Services Supervisor (RSS); Jennifer Lytle, Administrative Secretary

**MINUTES - NONE**

**AGENDA CHANGES**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Welcome New Commissioner Ben McDill**

**2.\* Review City of El Cajon ADA Transition Plan – Darnell and Associates, Inc.**

Overview of Phase 1 survey completion of ADA Transition Plan was presented by Bill Darnell, Paul Bishop (Architect) and Brian Hartshorn of Darnell and Associates, Inc. in conjunction with City of El Cajon Deputy Director of Public Works - Dennis Davies. The presentation outlined the Phase 1 survey of sidewalks and City facilities and their compliancy to ADA requirements per the ADAAG and 2001 CBC standards. Also reviewed was the priority ranking of ADA Transition Plan completion being mindful of the City's current financial position. Rankings, from highest to lowest, included 1) Parking/Front Door Access 2) Accessibility Within the Building 3) Restroom Access 4) Drinking Fountains and Other Conveniences. With priority rankings in mind, Darnell and Associates indicated that public programs operate differently than private, in that if the City provided compliancy with only one Recreation Center to meet the needs of all users it would be ADA compliant as a government entity. Final findings presented by Darnell and Associates, Inc. included cost estimates based on non-prevailing wages and typical costs for labor and materials. The cost estimate excluded any extensive engineering or design and does not include any utility relocation or other hidden conditions. Total estimated cost = \$3,534,177.

**Review City of El Cajon ADA Transition Plan (Cont.'d)**

Chair Martinez questioned whether the homeowner/property owner is responsible for installation of non-existent sidewalks and voiced concern over the abundance of renters in the City that would not comply and the absence of the homeowners in the area. He also questioned the current non-compliance of currently installed sidewalk ramps and the tools used to measure compliance. Dep. Dir. Davies stated that the property owner is responsible but that the City would maintain them upon completion. He reviewed the importance of sidewalks meeting current standards and that a District may be formed to install the sidewalks. Davies referred to possible "special funding" options that may be available such as *Safe Routes to School*. He further noted that there were procedures to notify non-resident homeowners that are renting their property. Dep. Dir. Davies stressed the importance of prioritizing the spending to correct the most important issues. Bill Darnell addressed the sidewalk ramps and indicated that the codes change every couple of years and that it is difficult to stay compliant with the sidewalk ramps. He stated that main public corridors were prioritized over residential areas. Darnell also indicated that while wheelchairs and other disabled equipment were not used, levels and other measuring tools were used to determine sidewalk ramp compliancy.

Vice-Chair McDonnell questioned whether the sidewalk ramps are wide enough for a pedestrian accompanying an individual in a wheelchair. He also discussed the importance of restroom handrails not satisfactorily meeting certain individual requirements. McDonnell voiced concern of the inconvenience of visiting City Hall. He pointed out that the handicap parking is not close enough to the door, the ramp to the front door is too steep and that when he tried to utilize the City's alternate handicap basement entrance, he was denied access. Vice-Chair McDonnell also indicated that he would like to see more handicap 'van' parking available as it provides more room. He also inquired as to the "real cost" of the Transition Plan. Paul Bishop, Darnell and Associates Architect, indicated that the sidewalk ramps meet the 4 foot federal requirement and agreed that restroom handrails are difficult to use in certain situations. Bishop indicated that a restroom with fewer than 6 toilets is not required to have extra room next to the toilet for easier transfer from wheelchair to toilet. He agreed with the assessment that City Hall is not easily accessible and noted the difficulty in negotiating the ramp at City Hall. Mr. Bishop indicated that there would be an escalation in cost over time due to inflation and hidden conditions so the real cost of the Transition Plan could be higher. He also indicated that Phase 2 survey would begin soon and would use the 2007 CBC standards. Dep. Dir. Davies indicated that these factors as well as prevailing wages could inflate the cost as much as 30-40%. He pointed out that Civic Center handicap parking will change to serve both buildings with the construction of the Safety Center.

Bill Darnell indicated that the Commission should direct any further questions to Deputy Director Davies.

*Motion by Chair Martinez, second by Vice-Chair McDonnell, and carried unanimously to forward the ADA Transition Plan review to City Council.*

**3. Election of new officers (Chair and Vice Chair)**

*Motion* by Ben McDill, *second* by Commissioner Mattingly and carried unanimously to have Chair Martinez and Vice-Chair McDonnell continue to serve as appointed for the Commission on Aging and Disabilities.

**4. Review Wells Center status – RSM Ramirez**

RSM Ramirez summarized the progression of the El Cajon Police Department Special Operations and Traffic Divisions move to the north wing of Wells Center. Recreation programs and staff were consolidated into the south wing. All senior groups were accommodated with the exception of three, which were relocated elsewhere.

The ECPD departments will remain at Wells Center until mid-2011, when the new Public Safety Center will be completed.

On October 7<sup>th</sup> a City Council Workshop was held to review a potential lease agreement with the Boys & Girls Club. The lease would allow the Boys & Girls Club to utilize Wells Center building for teens, a play yard area in back and the shuffleboard courts. As part of the lease, maintenance and utilities of this area would be the responsibility by the Boys & Girls Club. This proposed plan will be put forth to Council at the October 21<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting. Chair Martinez voiced concern that the Boys and Girls Club would want usage during non-school days. RSM Ramirez assured that current users would be “grand-fathered in” and all groups would be accommodated. RSM Ramirez reviewed the map of the proposed center lease area and indicated that the lease would remain in effect until the Safety Center is completed.

**5. East County Intergenerational Games – RSS Lowe**

RSS Lowe provided the background of the Cajon Valley Union School District sponsored Intergenerational Games which pair boys and girls with seniors for various games and the role the Commission plays in supporting the games. Chair Martinez voiced the need for volunteers as well as financial and in-kind sponsors. He indicated that \$35 scholarships are awarded to each participating child and that anyone wanting to donate should make a check payable to the Boys and Girls Club indicating “Intergenerational Games” in the memo portion of the check. Chair Martinez stressed the difficulty in finding sponsors and contributors. RSM Ramirez reviews the location of the games being at the Boys and Girls Club, not the Wells Center.

**6. Review the process of Conditional Use Permit – Drive-through Requests – Chair Martinez and McDonnell**

RSM Ramirez reviewed the process by which the Commission on Aging and Disabilities works with the City Planning Department to review conditional use permits issued for various retail space for ADA compliancy and ease of use. Committee reviews and submits suggestions to the Planning Dept., which are passed to the builder for changes. This item is brought forward for information to all Commission members, with *Motion* by Chair Martinez, *second* by Commissioner Mattingly, *unanimously* approved for Chair Martinez, Vice-Chair McDonnell and Commissioner Light to continue to serve on this review committee.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

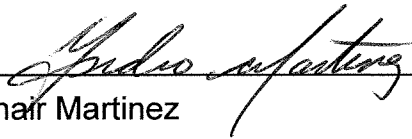
7. Commission Information Items - None


**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

TBA

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Chair Martinez, second by Commissioner Mattingly, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM*

  
Chair Martinez

  
Date