

## HCOD Meeting Minutes for 9/14/17

The Houston Commission on Disabilities met on Thursday, August 11, 2017, at the Houston Metropolitan Multi Service Center (MMSC), 1475 West Gray, Houston, Texas 77019

Commissioner Petty, opening remarks- Richard is grateful we all are safe. We will look forward to the recovery events. The decision our Commission will make, and the Mayor will make.

Roll Call was done by Lesa Jackson-Lazard, Secretary, at 4:20pm.

Public Comments done by Eddie R. Jessie, Vice chair.

Commissioner Toby Coby motion to approve Meeting Minutes for August 11, 2017, Commissioner Emmanuel Eziashi .2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to approve from last Month.

Commission Present: Richard Petty, Eddie R. Jessie, Lesa Jackson-Lazard, Maria Palacios, Asha Chuka, Roland Bienvenu, Shelly Townsend, Emmanuel Eziashi, Benigno Aceves, Frankie Sims, Tina Williams, Toby Cole

Commission Absent: Michael McCulloch, Karen Cunningham

MOPD, Division Manager: Maria Town, thank you to all of you in the immediate response in the recovery efforts, 74 people died, can't forget our Florida. August has been a world wind. Hobby audit, relief for services animals, more details in the Harvey on 8/25. This is the day of the hurricane, governor office, nonprofit, members of this commission, FEMA. Phone calls and build connects that disable disaster 650 calls were for emergency, we for fill 70 percent of those calls. We helped meals on wheels deliver meals to other areas, needed formula to families. Deaf and hearing community made a community emergency response team in

shelters. We received donations from several companies in the deaf communities. Autisms organizations do drives for blankets, iPad to families who do not have access to it. Many disable people are not accessible to food and shelters. The city of Houston has done a lot. The job of the MOPD, we did not have contact to, thanks to angel and Amanda have put a list of contact together. People were saying what about wheel chairs, MOPD have provide over1000 chairs, thank you to Chuck French for his help.

Thanks to Maria Town from Commissioners Townsend, Commissioner Benigno, Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Jackson-Lazard, Commissioner Petty.

MOPD Present: Angel Ponce

Ex Officio: Matt Russell, ADA COORDINATOR

Legal Present: Legal not present

Public Comments: Ms. Blair, Link Houston Mobility Equity Organization

Mr. Oswald Wites, most people with afacer, cannot see or pronounce words, one of the most unfunded disabilities, and most people don't know it is a disability. We need medical professionals to spread the word for these voiceless people. Thank you very much.

Commissioner Townsend, how can the commission help.

Mr. Oswald, by spreading awareness in the community, and we are talking about limited centers in Houston. The commission can find places.

Toby Cole, thank you for coming, I did not know about harp, the whole community need to be served.

Emmanuel, thank you for bringing this up have you ever talk to the mayor or go up there.

Oswald, said he was declined

Maria town, on Tuesday they allow people to come on Tuesday afternoon at the mayor's office.

Commissioner Williams, can you make me to know about the signs.

Oswald, some are people having trouble talking, pronouncing words. People every day having trouble completing sentence. They need time to get their words out.

Audience: Sammy Ryman, how did we do as a disability community/as a commission during Harvey disaster.

Alex Carvery, Uber is going to maintain their service here.

Commissioner Cole, it was like going into the mouth of the lion. They said we are there, and they have lower prices, thank you. I am going to work hard.

Maria town, Harvey response, how is it working with Uber excess.

Uber said they worked well.

Commissioner Williams, different point of view, Uber rides for people in a wheelchair. One question is I went to the Texans games, she had to go long across a bridge. It was not O.K. and without a power chair someone would be tired. How does it work if someone is not using your services?

Uber, he said he would look at that case to see what happen.

Commissioner Benigno, are you refer where they pick you up or drop you off. Will they allow them to get off where they are dropped off.

Toby Cole, they were not aware that people need this from uber. Issue with the stadium.

Audience: Cynthia Barton, new to the building fiber manouris, diabetic, she has a handicap. She could not move fast enough for people to try to park there. The bus drivers are good, but the rail system was not good for the disable community. She been newly in one of the groups at the library, there is not handicap parking, maybe one or two. Discovery green no handicap parking. They don't have accessible parking for the handicap community. She had to park far to get to the George R. Brown, problems with her feet. She walks in where is the handicap parking she had to walk through a long maze. She worked with harp, and what are these people doing, or with functional disabilities. Nobody could tell her she was not going to be towed, but was told where she was not accessible to a disable citizen.

Commissioner Petty, reach out to Tina Williams, you will be a welcome member to help with the parking. Tina will get her contact.

Audience: Ismael Garcia, is there another number for call 211. Angel, his friend was taken to gallery furniture. The restrooms were not accessible to the disable community. For future reference can they know where to call.

Maria Town, for food, water 211. Trees down 311. One of the difficulties is some shelters are managing by the NRG center, and some manager by other places. That is one solution for some people. Making sure that they know ADA regulations. A church is not required, but this may be the place to help save someone.

Presentation: the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies (Marcie Roth, Chief Executive Officer of the Partnership of Inclusive Disaster.

Introduction: Richard has worked with her in the pass. She has taken active role in helping in disaster situations. She could help in having medicine delivered to a family. Other families she has helped with getting their medicine, for the past several weeks. Marcie will have a discussion on disaster.

Marcie, thank you for the warm welcome, you have others who are working closely with you. You are safe with the community. What you may or may not know every dollar that come in to your community is to help your community. For universal access to the larger range commitment. Disaster Recovery has already begun, that the removable of debris and bring people together, or new house, vehicle repair, medical. We also need to comply with the 504 rules. Have we build schools in the pass 15 years, were they used as shelters? If it will be new schools, then some will be used as shelters.

These schools need to be rebuild to the standard of ADA. New vehicles for disable community, opportunities how can it help the work force. Grant funds, use these funds for bringing community groups together, doing analyze, you as commission can help with making sure, you clear.

We need to read up on the Disaster Recovery efforts. She will continue to support Houston, and that we make this a model for the community.

Commissioner Townsend, we need to educate ourselves on two different things?

Marcie, disaster recovery, hazard mediation. She will be sending out the link.

Commissioner Richard, what in the emergency recovery that we need to pay attention to.

Marcie, transitional housing, and the options. Watching access housing during this period. Child care is equally available, parents cannot go back to work. Sub-contracting is required to provide case management. We should be actively involving with the disability community. Sign language is delivered in our communities, it is very important. Accommodations for recovery is met also, support or other behavioral issues

Commissioner Williams, we need to make sure adequate money is set aside for the community, how do we know.

Marcie, every one of the federal dollars should be education from the commission. You will be important for us not to accept them from saying they don't have the money. The first step is to pull the curtain back and help people know how to achieve it.

MariaTown, they and the people who are they

Marcie, the state of Texas, FEMA, state, and local officials, us as a commission can call on them to comply with how the federal funds are going to be spent.

Commissioner Petty, some committee to come and work with the people and get paid and have not knowledge about the organization. They have not done well during this recovery process, discussion through Maria town, MS Lucy through the mayor office. We need to be mindful of what is going to happen.

Audience: It's a wonderful opportunity to attend, and share a list of priorities. October 11, if they are going to raise taxes. I hope as many people can go. Next time we have shelters and recovery long terms.

Commissioner, that shelly Townsend gather as many as possible to talk about these discussions. Shelly will with the support of the commission, Emmanuel, sims, toby Cole to join commissioner to join, Benigno. We are allowing this Committee to gather and work on this. Move by commission Cole, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Benigno.

Committee Updates:

Disability-Related Issues in Public Education – (Karen Cunningham, Chair)-

Emergency Preparedness (Shelly Townsend, Chair

Commissioner Petty suggested that we focus on the Emergency Preparedness Committee, due to the importance of the Harvey Hurricane Disaster preparedness. Commissioner Petty also ask

Commissioner Townsend, 211 access problems, getting through on the line. Lots of families with children with disabilities could not get through to 211 lines. We will need to be better prepare. Did anyone have problems with Steer.

Employment - Benigno Aceves, Chair, Volunteer with setting up shelters for those in need of shelter from Harvey storm. The Leaping into Employment meetings will be held on every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month, at 2pm, before the HCOD meeting. First meeting was a success held on today.

HARP (Eddie Jessie, Chair)-Selection from application, final meeting will be announced.

Housing & Tenancy Issues (Lesa Jackson Lazard, Chair)- Housing Center for Independent Living (HCIL) will have the Rev-up National Voter Registration day, on-site Voter Registration event to learn about the importance to vote and register to vote. 713-974-4621.

Marketing (Frankie Sims, Chair- No updates

Metro/Transportation/Parking (Tina Williams, Chair)-No updates

Police Response to Persons with Disabilities (Emmanuel Arizona Eziashi, Chair)-  
No updates

Strategic Planning (Toby Cole, Chair)-No updates

Metropolitan MSC Update (Chuck French / Hannah Walker)-No updates

ADA Update (Matt Russell, COH ADA Coordinator)-No updates

Legal Ms. Evans -No updates

Commissioners Comments: None

The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lesa Jackson-Lazard and 2<sup>nd</sup>  
by Commissioner Roland

The HCOD meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

Minutes submitted by Lesa Jackson-Lazard ([lesajackosn2010@yahoo.com](mailto:lesajackosn2010@yahoo.com)) 281-  
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