

CITY OF DENTON  
COMMITTEE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
MINUTES  
September 17, 2020

After determining that a quorum of the Committee on Persons with Disabilities was present, the Committee of the City of Denton, Texas convened in a meeting via video/teleconference on Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in the City Council Work Session room at 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Chair Val Vera, and members Sally Austin, Tammera Beckham, Alison Kelly, Rex King, Val Morgan, Sonia Redwine, Joe Rivas, and John Wier

ABSENT:

STAFF: Ryan Adams, Chief Dixon, Becky Owens, Michael Cronig, Scott Gray and Brian Jahn

1. PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Resident Ms. Sherry Anderson, 8485 Jim Crystal Road called in to share her support of the Take Me Home program. She is a mother of an adult autistic son. She spoke about her experiences in the past when she moved to Denton with her son and her early interactions with her neighbors. She has been in touch with Chief Dixon who has shared some of the concerns he has received.

- a. The perception this will make more encounter with the Police. She does not feel or understand why that is a bad thing. The Police Officers are well trained. and if children are raised to respect authority and taught that police are not bad, this should not be an issue at all.
- b. Who signs a person up for this program? This is done by the legal guardian. It was voiced that this person would not have a choice to be signed up for this program. It is your responsibility as a parent or guardian to protect that child and this is a way of protecting them.
- c. How do you know it is not an abusive home they are being returned to? You don't. However, the Police are very trained and have programs to ensure that is not happening through their investigations and involvement just like they do with any other person being returned to a home. They do this all the time for Alzheimer's, dementia and multiple different conditions where that needs to be addressed.

As a parent, we are now looking at a program that was implemented by the Texas Department of Public Safety. On the driver's license, if an autistic person is pulled over the officer will know the person may have communication that might be altered. This program is very similar to the Take Me Home Program and one can voice their opinion if they want to participate in the drivers' program. The Take Me Home Program is for

younger kids and older adults that can't make those decisions. She strongly supports this program and will encourage parents of autistic children and applicable family members that this can bring peace and comfort to them.

A total of eleven (11) virtual white comment cards received and distributed to the committee members in advance of this meeting along with one (1) email sent to Chief Dixon. They are attached here for the record as part of the meeting minutes.

## 2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

### A. CPD20-019 Consider the approval of the meeting minutes of July 16, 2020.

Rex King motioned for approval and Alison Kelly seconded to approve the draft minutes as presented for the February 20, 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously by vote.

Val Morgan	yay
Sonja Redwine	yay
Sally Austin	yay
Tamera Beckham	yay
John Wier	yay
Allison Kelly	yay
Joe Rivas	yay
Rex King	yay
Val Vera	yay

### B. CPD20-020 Receive a report, hold a discussion and give staff direction regarding the Take Me Home Program offered by the Denton Police Department.

Chief Dixon of the Denton Police Department gave a presentation and a discussion followed. Questions were asked and addressed. An invitation will be extended in the future for interaction and input from the members with the Police Department.

### C. CPD20-021 Receive a report, hold a discussion and give staff direction regarding accessibility in the Development Services Building, remodeled Police Headquarters, and Police Substation.

Scott Gray, Director of Facilities and CIP Facilities gave a presentation and addressed comments from the committee.

### D. CPD20-022 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding considerations for the recruitment and hiring of an ADA

Coordinator/Transportation Planner.

Brian Jahn shared a presentation and asked for the committees input on the elements of the skill set were most important. The job description is currently being developed and this new person will become an active participant in this committee.

An appreciation for the combination of the transportation and ADA coordinator was expressed.

A request was made to have the Chair from this committee and perhaps another committee within the City that has a similar interest or related focus to review the applications or even sit in on the interviews. This request will be forwarded on to management staff.

With the consideration for this newly created position, is the City not looking to hiring an overall ADA Coordinator? The current policy that has been adopted by Council is divided to cover the three primary areas. Staff cannot make changes to this policy without the approval or direction by City Council. The question was asked if this committee could make a recommendation to Council to have a single ADA Coordinator for the City. It was confirmed and was asked if Staff would like to see this brought forward for discussion as part of the concluding items.

Strong interests were expressed to prioritize the background, experience and certifications in the consideration for the candidate selection.

An interest in looking outside the box for someone who represents their community for this candidate. There are disabled people who have the certifications, background and the education. The questions where we look for these people. Consider adding a preferred qualification personal experience with a disability is placed on the description then determining where it is published or distributed. The request was to begin having representation from the community this committee represents and that the City serves.

E. CPD20-023 General Updates

1. Staff Update Memo

The five items covered in the agenda packet were reviewed:

- Scheduling of Future Virtual Meetings
- City of Denton Organizational Structure
- Committee Member Terms
- Downtown Reinvestment Grant Policy
- Closed Captioning

Scheduling future meetings

2. Organizational Chart

Recent Staffing changes were announced.

Reappointments after election in November for Committee Member Terms and after the new Council is seated, we will work through the new appointments. Any questions can be addressed to Rosa Rios, City Secretary.

Jessica Rogers provided an update on the presentation made at a previous meeting on the Downtown Reinvestment Grant Policy.

Closed Captioning costs were update in the memorandum report.  
Process to proceed with a recommendation to Council

The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

3. CONCLUDING ITEMS

A request was made to proceed with the necessary actions to get these meetings captioned going forward. An overview of the process was shared by Ryan Adams in response for the Committee to make a recommendation to Council. There was a silent consensus to have this brought forward as an agenda item at the next available meeting.

The request was made to have an agenda item brought forward for the committee to make a recommendation to Council to have a single ADA Coordinator for the entire City.

Under Section 551.042 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, respond to inquiries from the Committee on Persons with Disabilities or the public with specific factual information or recitation of policy, or accept a proposal to place the matter on the agenda for an upcoming meeting and under Section 551.0415 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, provide reports about items of community interest regarding which no action will be taken, to include: expressions of thanks, congratulations, or condolence; information regarding holiday schedules; an honorary or salutary recognition of a public official, public employee, or other citizen; a reminder about an upcoming event organized or sponsored by the governing body; information regarding a social, ceremonial, or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the governing body that was attended or is scheduled to be attended by a member of the governing body or an official or employee of the municipality; or an announcement involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of people in the municipality that has arisen after the posting of the agenda.

Rex King made a motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Tamera Beckham.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

DocuSigned by:



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VAL VERA  
CHAIR

DocuSigned by:



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BECKY OWENS  
RECORDING SECRETARY  
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

MINUTES APPROVED ON: November 19, 2020

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becky.owens@cityofdenton.com

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Tammy.Peal@cityofdenton.com

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Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	11/20/2020 10:02:59 AM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	11/20/2020 11:22:10 AM
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Browsers (for SENDERS):	Internet Explorer 6.0? or above
Browsers (for SIGNERS):	Internet Explorer 6.0?, Mozilla FireFox 1.0, NetScape 7.2 (or above)
Email:	Access to a valid email account
Screen Resolution:	800 x 600 minimum
Enabled Security Settings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Allow per session cookies</li><li>•Users accessing the internet behind a Proxy Server must enable HTTP 1.1 settings via proxy connection</li></ul>

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