

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Friday, August 28, 2009
David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden Street

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Johnson (Chair), Chian, Marsten, Ortega, Suhr, Van Meter

Committee Members Absent: Barnwell

Staff Present: Schmidt, D'Amour, Estrella, Whitham

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved (Suhr/Ortega).

4. Public Comment

None

5. Agenda Items

a. MTD Access Efforts:

Steve Maas, Manager of Strategic Planning & Compliance for the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD), gave the Committee an overview of access efforts at the Metropolitan Transit District (which is not part of the City of Santa Barbara).

MTD has all accessible buses, makes maintenance of accessible features a priority, and asks drivers to announce all stops and help clear accessible seats for people who need them. Driver education has included presentations from people with disabilities. All new stops are constructed to be accessible and, upon request, they work with municipalities and the County to make inaccessible stops accessible. Federal stimulus money will help MTD buy more accessible buses and fare vending machines. Mr. Maas suggested Committee members report access problems to the MTD complaint line at (805)963-3364. Riders who have trouble en route can call 963-3363. The Committee

offered to provide advice or guidance to MTD staff anytime they need it.

Easy Lift is a curb-to-curb paratransit service provided by contract with MTD for people who can't ride the regular bus due to a disability. The fare is only about 2 times as expensive as normal fare and assistance is available based on financial need.

MTD also offers mobility training through Easy Lift for seniors and people with disabilities to teach them to use Easy Lift services. Easy lift also offers one-on-one training to teach people how to use the regular bus system.

b. Police Department Access Efforts

Lieutenant Dave Whitham addressed access efforts in the Police Department. He showed some areas of the Police Department that are physically accessible and some areas that need improvement. Officers receive ADA sensitivity training as part of their Peace Officers Standards Training (P.O.S.T.). The Department has a van for transport of people with mobility disabilities. Committee members can call the main Police Department line and speak with the "watch commander" if they have immediate concerns about Police Department accessibility, or ask for Lieutenant Whitham.

Committee members asked about enforcing laws related to the denial of access to service animals by businesses. Lt. Whitham explained that this is a violation of a civil statute and not a criminal statute, so the Police Department does not have the ability to enforce that law. The Police Department can respond to the disturbance and write a police report, but cannot cite anyone. The person using the service animal must seek relief from the courts.

c. Right of Way Access

This item was carried over to the next meeting.

6. Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, Committee Member Marsten announced that he would be moving out of state and would need to resign his position. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, November 20, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.
David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street

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