



## City of Oakland

Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)  
Monday, February 28th, 2022 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. via Zoom Conference

### Minutes

**NOTE:** Approved minutes and video recordings are posted at <https://www.oaklandca.gov/boards-commissions/mayors-commission-on-persons-with-disabilities/meetings>

**Commissioners:** Howard Tevelson (Chair), Cathy Eberhardt (Vice Chair), Noah Smith (Vice Chair), Erin Hattersley, Ayanna Keeton, Marjorie Lynne, Leonard Moore, Karen Nakamura, Frank Sperling

**Commission staff:** Anh Nguyen, ADA Programs Division Manager; Karen Denicore, ADA Program Analyst I

**Presenters:** Lakshmi Rajagopalan and Audrey Lieberman from Planning and Building, Shayna Hirshfield-Gold from Environmental Services Division

**Other attendees** (from webinar Attendee list): Andrea Mok (LIFE eldercare) Emma Martin (TheCIL) Ofurhe Igbinedion, Kieffer Lou, Audrey, Asha Beene, Lillian Black, Chonita Chew (USOAC), Nicole L., Nelson Wang, Sheela Gunn-Cushman

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Meeting called to order by Chair Tevelson at 5:37 PM. At roll call, quorum was established with 6 of nine commissioners present (x).

<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>Present (x)</b>
Howard Tevelson (Chair)	x
Cathy Eberhardt (Vice Chair)	x
Noah Smith (Vice Chair)	absent
Erin Hattersley	x
Ayanna Keeton	absent
Marjorie Lynne	x
Leonard Moore	x
Karen Nakamura	absent
Frank Sperling	x

## Open Forum

Sheela Gunn-Cushman: Pointed out that parking at bus stops (Fruitvale and Brookfield) and having to exit the bus in the street is becoming increasingly common and is a major safety issue and she would like to see better enforcement. She also expressed the difficulty accessing housing resources on behalf of someone who is relocating to Oakland.

Chonita Chew: Agrees that parking in bus stops leading to drop offs in the street is an increasing danger and mentioned AB917 that will allow cameras on the front of the bus to capture and document illegal parking.

The USOAC Convention is an outdoor event this year scheduled for 7/29/22 at the Fairgrounds and the yearly Healthy Living Festival is on for 9/29 and includes free zoo admission.

The agenda was accepted without modification and unanimous voice approval.

January 2022 Minutes were approved with one edit by a motion from Commissioner Sperling, a second from Commissioner Eberhardt and unanimous approval.

The 2021 Virtual Meeting Resolution was re-adopted with a motion from Commissioner Sperling and a second from Commissioner Eberhardt with 6 votes from the six commissioners present.

<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Howard Tevelson (Chair)	x		
Cathy Eberhardt (Vice Chair)	x		
Noah Smith (Vice Chair)	N/A		
Erin Hattersley	x		
Ayanna Keeton	N/A		
Marjorie Lynne	x		
Leonard Moore	x		
Karen Nakamura	N/A		
Frank Sperling	x		

## Commissioner's Announcements

Commissioner Sperling has stepped down from MCPD and this meeting will be his last one.

Commissioner Tevelson (virtually) presented Commissioner Sperling with a Proclamation from the Mayor of Oakland recognizing his contribution and his MCPD leadership leading to enormous growth in the efforts of the commission to make Oakland more accessible to persons with disabilities.

General Plan Update from Lakshmi Rajagopalan and Audrey Lieberworth from Building and Planning and the General Plan Team

**Action Items: ADA Staff will contact Commissioner Hattersley for the contact for the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority regional affordable housing portal project and forward.**

**Commissioners and ADA staff make recommendations for stakeholders to include in focus groups and ADA staff forward to General Plan team**

Commissioner Sperling observed that the presentation included Race and Equity, Environmental Justice, but no a mention of persons with disabilities. Are persons with disabilities even a stakeholder? Would like to see them come back with a better presentation that was focused and relevant for MCPD.

Chair Tevelson agreed that persons with special needs was only mentioned once during the presentation and wonders if persons with disabilities are even equitable partners. He too would like to see them return with a different presentation.

Lakshmi explained that the presentation was just the very beginning of a longer engagement process and covered only on a very high level what they would be under consideration. The team has been working with ADA Program staff to identify the goals of MCPD and plans to conduct focus groups with specific populations to include persons with disabilities and will continue to work closely with ADA Programs and MCPD.

Chair Tevelson clarified that there are multiple issues to providing accessible housing to those who need it including building plans approved with appropriate accessibility specs and the final product still ending up inaccessible.

Sheela Gunn-Cushman points out that in addition to the need for very low income housing, accessing any housing waiting lists is semi-accessible at best and the majority are not accessible at all. There are multiple applications required for every single listing and no streamlined processes for people seeking housing.

Housing element will look into increasing the housing stock for low and very low income and streamlining access.

Commissioner Hattersley says that Bay Area Housing Finance Authority is currently working on a regional affordable housing portal and might be a good connection. She will provide this info to staff to share with the General Plan Team.

Commissioner Eberhardt states that persons with disabilities should always have priority access to housing.

Audrey Lieberworth says that the community engagement process on the General Plan update will continue for the next four years and that they will return to MCPD with key benchmarks and work with them in between. She requests referrals for stakeholder recommendations to invite to participate in focus groups. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be a focus group on anti-displacement and tenant protections.

Sheela Gunn-Cushman recommends the CIL, Lighthouse for the Blind, and Lions Center.

Chair Tevelson requests that ADA Programs Division staff compile a list of recommended stakeholders and share with General Plan Staff and include him in the referral.

Electrifying all existing buildings in Oakland by 2040 by Shayna Hirshfield-Gold of Environmental Services Division

**Action Items: ADA staff to forward links and referrals to resources described by Shayna during her presentation.**

Commissioner Sperling thinks the project needs a better name.

Commissioner Eberhardt is very concerned about the costs involved and that the rebates barely touch the overall costs of eliminating gas appliances

Chair Tevelson thinks that the fact that PG&E does not make any arrangements for people with disabilities during any planned maintenance outages.

Chair Tevelson also observes that much of Oakland housing stock is not even currently wired to take on the load of electric appliances replacing gas ones.

Chonita Chew requests assistance with accessing resources to chance to solar but she lives in Berkeley and wonders if they are also available to her. Shayna verifies that rebates and incentives are alameda county wide.

Switch is On website is a new clearing house for energy incentives.

Sheela Gunn-Cushman referred Shayna to Vance Taylor, OES Access and Functional Needs and she would like to get the Switch is On link in meeting follow ups and get info about resources for renters.

## Staff Updates and Announcements

Yvonna Cazares is leaving her position with the City of Oakland

## Future Agenda Items

Community Resources for Independent Living CRIL Presentation  
2022 Strategic Goal Planning  
Commissioner Handbook Introduction

Future and proposed meeting agenda items can be accessed here:

[MCPD Agenda/Schedule, http://tinyurl.com/MCPD-AgendaPlanner - Google Sheets](http://tinyurl.com/MCPD-AgendaPlanner-GoogleSheets)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM with a motion from Commissioner Eberhardt, a second from Commissioner Sperling.