



## Commission on Disability Minutes re September 10, 2025, meeting

North Berkeley Senior Center, Aspen Room  
1901 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709

### Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order by Chair Pugh at 5:03pm
2. Land Acknowledgment recognizing Berkeley as the ancestral, unceded home of the Ohlone People
3. Roll Call by Secretary

Commissioners present: Vice Chair Fischer, Chair Pugh, Commissioners Sun, Lewkowicz, Mann, and Nisen.  
Commissioners on Leave of Absence: Commissioners Walsh and Paz.  
Staff present: Thomas Gregory.  
Public members present: Kitt Saginor (Open Government Commission) and Ruth Rogow.
4. Public Comments

Ruth Rogow spoke about the benefits, including for many seniors with disabilities, of a longstanding, popular, no-cost, volunteer-run ceramics program at South Berkeley Senior Center (SBSC). The SBSC will be closed for renovations. Unless a new, temporary venue is found, the program will have to close. Ms. Rogow emphasized the importance of continuing the program and finding a City-supported temporary location.

Kitt Saginaw, Chair of the City's Open Government Commission, expressed (a) *that* commission's support for a WCAG compliant City website as a matter of safeguarding open government and (b) *that* commission's availability to support the CoD initiative as needed. Ms. Saginaw also commented on the importance of public meetings featuring an option for members of the public to attend virtually.
5. Approval of draft minutes: July 9, 2025 meeting

"...to approve the July minutes."  
Moved by: Commissioner Lewkowicz; seconded by: Commissioner Sun.  
Ayes: unanimous. The motion passes.
6. Approval: Order of Agenda

"...to approve the agenda."  
Moved by: Vice Chair Fischer; seconded by: Commissioner Nisen.  
Ayes: unanimous. The motion passes.

### Discussion/Action Items

7. CoD-City staff WCAG process

Commissioner Sun, from CoD's ad hoc committee on WCAG compliance, updated on the first committee meeting with City staff. She indicated steps staff have made (e.g.,

training sessions, forming a task force) and steps needed (e.g., using Rolling Orange more in WCAG compliance, HTML-first formats). The CoD subcommittee shared a draft work plan to achieve compliance. The CoD subcommittee believes compliance will not be achieved by April 24, 2026 (the City can be sued after that date) unless financial resources are committed—not something the City has indicated they will do. The CoD committee proposes .25FTE of existing City staff (coordination) and .5FTE of consulting time (technical implementation) as a realistic minimum needed. The committee (Fischer, Nisen, Sun) next meets with staff on September 16.

#### 8. CoD-City staff PROWAG process

Vice Chair Fischer indicated that while the City Manager intends to report to Council on this topic in late October, there have, as yet, been no meetings between the ad hoc committee (Fischer, Lewkowicz, Pugh) and staff. Communication to Public Works staff will be initiated.

#### 9. Recommendations: City meeting accessibility and meeting accessibility statement

A draft from Chair Pugh and Commissioner Walsh was presented. There was discussion on whether to combine or separate CoD's recommendations on these two issues: (a) uniform statements on ADA modifications at meetings/events and (b) increasing accessibility by offering captioning at meetings/events. Discussion continued with feedback on the content of the draft and possible next steps.

#### 10. Work Plan Updates and Developments

##### a. Review Work Plan draft

Commissioners reviewed the draft Work Plan presented by Vice Chair Fischer and were asked to add additional priority areas or other ideas. The CoD expects to vote on a work plan at the October meeting.

### **Commissioner Announcements**

#### **Staff Updates**

##### 12. Log of Access Complaints

CoD reinforced the need to create a system that quickly “closes the loop” when City documents are remediated for WCAG compliance, ensuring that the compliant document is in use.

In response to followup questions on issues raised at the July meeting, Secretary Gregory indicated that a log of requested Auditory Pedestrian Signals (APS) was being kept. He also indicated that a count, in general categories, of accessibility issues that do not meet the standard of an ADA violation would be kept.

##### 13. Email and voicemail sent to the Commission

**Adjournment at 7:11pm**

Minutes approved by COD vote on: \_\_\_\_\_10/8/25\_\_\_\_\_

*Thomas Gregory*

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Thomas Gregory, Secretary to Commission