

# **Disability Advocacy Committee**

## **Minutes**

For the regular meeting of:

June 8, 2015

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: City Hall East, 315 E. Acequia

Meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities

**Present:**

**Chair:** Absent (Jay Anderson)

**Vice Chair:** George Curtis

**Member:** Don Ajluni

**Member:** Kathleen Papove

**Member:** Shelley Jensen

**Member:** Absent (Mary Wheeler)

**Alternate (2): Vacant**

**Visitor:** Kathleen Curtis

**Staff:** Gayle Bond, Lupe Garcia, Lorena Soules

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1. **Meeting** was called to order at 5:05 P.M. by Co-Chair George Curtis.
2. **Introductions & Welcome** – Lorena Soules, Permit Tech from the Community Development Department was introduced.
3. **Public Comment or Written Communication:** None
4. **Approval of Minutes:**  
Approval of minutes from May 11, 2015 meeting (Kathleen Papove, Shelley Jensen)
5. **Barrier Awareness Day Progress Report and Discussion – George Curtis:** George had nothing further to report since the last meeting. The Healthy Visalia only meets quarterly; however, as the October event draws closer they will meet more often.

Items for future confirmation:

Number of people representing our Committee at the event. After a head count the budget will be discussed as to amount of money needed for food and where it will be purchased. Subway, which we have used in the past for box lunches, was mentioned.

Don Ajluni will confirm that he can bring wheelchairs from Kaweah Delta Hospital.

The location of the event and our booth inside the Sports Park itself needs to be determined. This will be important so the group can carry out the exercise of allowing non-handicapped persons identify with the disabled and their challenges.

George Curtis will attend the next Healthy Visalia this month.

**All Member Comments and Discussion:**

Sports Park was re-discussed. George Curtis showed photos of van accessible parking that is not correct or useable.

Sports Park – George Curtis asked why the picnic tables were different.

The Committee discussed how they can facilitate improvements in the parks.

Don Ajluni asked what number or per cent of the picnic tables at Sports Park are accessible?

Walmart parking lot was discussed – the path of travel is being installed from Mooney to Walmart.

The Committee discussed various ways they could make businesses aware of accessibility issues.

Don Ajluni mentioned using the Chamber of Commerce membership to make businesses aware.

**Follow up from Parks & Rec Meeting:**

- New parks are plan checked for ADA compliance and better meet the needs for all the community.
- Don Ajluni, Member, commended Parks and Recreation for the efforts and improvements they have made.
- Follow Up: Lighting at Blain Park be improved (Jay Anderson)
- ADA parking spaces at the Recreation Department and Senior Center be updated and/or increased (George Curtis)
- The gravel parking will be improved by the end of 2015 at the Sports Park (Jeff Fultz).
- Sports Park and other parks – The Committee suggested that a strip of sidewalk be added to make access to the arbors in lieu of the grass or wood carpet.
- East Side Regional Park – (Jay will keep the DAC current on updates regarding the new park).

6. **Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 13, 2015