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Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes February 1, 2007

Chair Paul Branson called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Attending: Janet Abelson, Steve Belkin, George Blackstock, Eleanor Bloch, Myrtle Braxton, Richard Burnett, Herbert Crowle, Mary Lawrence, Marshall Loring, Bruce Oka, Barbara Rhodes, Dennis Trenten, Doug Weir and Craig Yates. Participating by telephone: Richard Hedges. Excused: Rabon Saip, Shirlee Zane.

Audience Member Self-introductions

- Andrea Feit-Dugan, Marin Commission on Aging
- Nicole Fuletta, University of California at Berkeley
- Ben Kinney, Disability Rights Enforcement, Educ. Serv. (DREES)

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from Jan. 11, 2007 meeting were moved by Mr. Crowle, seconded by Ms. Bloch, and approved. Abstained: Janet Abelson.

Advisory Council Reports

Minutes from the Jan. 10, 2007 Advisory Council meeting, reported on at EDAC last month, were in today's meeting packet.

Chair's Report

Chair Branson highlighted EDAC's existing work plan and tasks of EDAC's three subcommittees. Mr. Trenten suggested a set of principles be developed for seniors and the disabled, having in mind the principles adopted by the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee on the topic of environmental justice. Chair Branson called for a show of hands and seeing agreement called for volunteers to join an ad hoc committee led by Mr. Trenton: Bloch/Braxton/Hedges/Loring/and Yates all volunteered.

EDAC Subcommittee Reports

Access/Service Issues Subcommittee Chair Oka reported on the number of accessible taxis by county, with three counties still to report. For those counties it was suggested contacting the county's department of weights and measures and taxi permit requests.

Transportation/Land Use Subcommittee -- Mr. Loring said the upcoming presentation on accessible housing near transit to be made to various MTC committees was still being put together.

Technology/Operations Subcommittee Chair Abelson announced her subcommittee would gather right after this meeting.

Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Vogler noted the Coordinated Plan's February calendar of meetings, and a Feb. 16 workshop on climate change (9AM, MetroCenter) sponsored by MTC/AGAG/BAAQMD/BCDC to gather suggestions for regional action, as appropriate.

Advisory Committee Recruitment 2007

Pam Grove reminded members how MTC advisors' terms all expire July 31, 2007 and said the recruitment process is now underway. She encouraged interested advisors to re-apply sooner, not later, and said a copy of each advisor's previous application is available on request (applications accepted through Apr. 13, 2007).

Audience comment: Ms. Feit-Dugan suggested sending EDAC's monthly meeting packet (electronically) to the chairpersons of county commissions on aging. Ms. Vogler said it's a good idea and would consider it. Mr. Loring agreed but encouraged actual attendance at meetings of members' local commission on aging.

Legislative Report

Ms. Griffin reported on state legislative action to date, anticipating introduction of many more transportation-related bills prior to the Legislature's Feb. 23, 2007 deadline to do so. She referred members to the MTC Annual Report to the State Legislature dated January 2007 that is available on MTC's Web site. She said that MTC's upcoming report to Congress addresses safety and transit security, among other issues. MTC's chair and

vice chair will change as of Feb. 28. Amid discussion that followed, members asked why state bond money would be spent on federal interstates [answer: because of woeful underfunding]. Members also said to put EDAC to work when it's needed to move bills in Sacramento. Audience member Feit-Dugan said the disabled community's lobbying seemed to need help to become powerful. Ms. Griffin thanked members and said how interested commissioners are to hear EDAC's ideas.

Older Driver Video

Members viewed the 35-minute older driver video for an opportunity to comment and suggest changes as necessary.

Member comments:

- Excellent, but shorten introduction of speakers, where possible
- Best presentation on elderly driving seen so far
- Insert footage on roadway signage, including international signage
- Add in some footage of the Caltrans speaker discussing new signage, which is more clear and visible to drivers

Members suggested distributing the video to:

- California Council of the Blind
- National Federation of the Blind
- Paratransit Coordinating Councils
- AARP
- Libraries
- Churches
- EDAC members
- Senior centers

Other Business/Next Meeting/Adjournment

There was no other business. The next meeting was scheduled for Mar. 1, 2007. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.