



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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MINUTES

Standing Committee on Parking Meeting

Location: Disability and Communication Access Board
1010 Richards Street, Conference Room 111A
Date: September 19, 2019
Time: 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Summer Kozai, Chairperson; Pauline Aughe, Bryant Yabui, Board Members; Kirby Shaw, Bryan Mick, Kamaile Hopfe, Staff

ABSENT: Violet Horvath, Board Member

- I. Chairperson Summer Kozai called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.
- II. The Committee approved the minutes of the August 1, 2019 meeting (M/S/P Yabui/Aughe).
- III. Old Business

A. Placard Renewal Statistics

Bryan Mick reported that during the first two months of the first quarter of fiscal year 2020, 5,661 placards and 307 special license plates were issued. Of the placards, 1,394 were temporary and 4,267 were long term. Of the long term placards, 2,002 were renewals issued by DCAB. The renewal rate was sixty one percent. Staff had prepared a graph of monthly long term renewals that shows some cyclical dips but a clear trend upward. As long as the number of new first time applicants exceeds the number of permittees who do not renew an existing permit, the total number of permittees will grow. The total number of permittees grows by a few thousand every year. Summer Kozai said it would be interesting to see a graph showing the number of monthly first time permittees to see how that trend compares to the renewal graph. Bryan Mick responded he should be able to produce a single graph that would show both lines.

B. Death Records Crossmatch – Update

Bryan Mick reported that DCAB performed a cross check with the Department of Health Vital Records Branch, and that 2,496 letters were sent to the estates of deceased permittees. To date, 1,233 (49%) were returned, 130 (5%) were reported as lost or disposed of by the family, and

368 (15%) were returned by the post office as undeliverable. That is a fairly high return rate and is much higher than the thirty three percent rate in 2018 when a cross check was performed after multi-year hiatus.

C. Public Education

Parking Locator App – Update

Bryan Mick reported that the app is not working on the Android platform and that the company that employs the app's code writer has not responded to staff's request for a quote. However, the app is still working on the latest version of iOS.

Bryan Mick also reported that yesterday he met with and trained the individual who DCAB contracted with as our parking liaison to upload photos and locations of accessible spaces into the app.

Pauline Aughe commented that if the company where the code writer works does not respond, she knows someone on the Big Island who might be willing to bid on the contract. Bryant Yabui commented that he hoped the contract was written so that DCAB owns the rights to the code. He also said it might be worth approaching the Office of Enterprise Technology Services to see if they could handle this in house.

IV. New Business

A. FY 2019 Parking Annual Report – Draft

Bryan Mick reported that staff had gone through several revisions and emailed the final draft to Committee members. Bryant Yabui commented that the graph showing the total numbers of qualifying conditions indicated that only 7,483 (7%) had wheelchair use checked. He noted that these are the people who actually need to use access aisles, yet they are forced to compete with the other 100,000 permittees for accessible parking. He said that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should be amended to restrict the use of van accessible parking spaces for wheelchair and scooter users, and to reserve parking spaces without access aisles for permittees who only need proximity to an accessible entrance of a facility, which would in turn allow more of such spaces to fit in a given area. He noted that the system has simply grown beyond its original intent to the point where the people that the spaces were intended for now have difficulty using them. Pauline Aughe agreed that there needs to be a tiered system and asked if DCAB could become an advocate for this position. Kirby Shaw replied that DCAB could send a letter with our statistics to the U.S. Access Board to request consideration of an amendment, noting that the design standards were amended in 2010. He added that DCAB, as a member of a group of similar governmental agencies in the other forty-nine states, participates in periodic conference

calls to share information and discuss common problems. He hopes to speak with the Chair of this group to see if this is a topic that the group would like to consider. Bryan Mick suggested that this could be an agenda item for the next Committee meeting, and perhaps a resolution could be drafted so that it could be sent to various organizations or officials as appropriate rather than redrafting a letter each time a recipient is identified. Summer Kozai replied that sounds like a good course of action.

B. Medical Resident (MDR) Certification of Disability on Parking Application Forms

Bryan Mick reported that the Lieutenant Governor's Office inquired about DCAB's policy that disallows medical residents (MDR) from certifying applicants for a disability parking permit. Staff consulted with the administrator for the State Medical Licensing Board and with the Department of the Attorney General and concluded that MDRs are licensed practicing physicians and therefore authorized to certify the disability of permit applicants. He noted that he informed the County partners of this change as well as the Lieutenant Governor's Office.

Bryant Yabui commented that in reality, very few doctors truly assess if their patient can walk two hundred feet without stopping to rest. They instead rely on the applicant's representations. Pauline Aughe asked what steps DCAB could take to improve this part of the process and observed that many paratransit systems require a vigorous in person assessment before eligibility is granted. Bryan Mick replied that staff had investigated what it would take to use a system similar to the Commercial Driver's License system, where the State trains and authorizes a limited pool of physicians to perform the assessments and to certify if someone is medically eligible. Some of the barriers include the cost of training the physicians so that they conduct standardized assessments, the cost of maintaining a database of authorized physicians, and possibly the cost of paying the physicians per assessment. Another possible barrier is that we would need enough authorized physicians on every island to assure that an applicant could be assessed in a timely manner. Pauline Aughe replied that the costs would eventually be offset by having less applicants being certified as eligible and or possibly less persons applying for a permit. Bryan Mick agreed that anytime an in person assessment is done by a neutral party to determine eligibility for a government program it is a best practice.

C. Mopeds and Special License Plates

Bryan Mick reported that a permittee with a placard inquired about getting a special license plate for his moped, which in practice the Counties do not issue. Staff determined that the Counties' policy is proper because under the Hawaii Revised Statutes, special license plates may be issued

for motor vehicles, including motorcycles, but not for mopeds which are by definition not motor vehicles. Pauline Aughe added that she would be irritated to see a moped parked in an accessible parking space. Bryan Mick added that this inquiry seemed to be related to the University of Hawaii Manoa campus, which has designated areas where only mopeds can park. Kirby Shaw added that someone could also request a reasonable accommodation or modification of policy, practice or procedure from the University, which could give permission to park a moped where it is not normally allowed.

V. Open Forum

There were no issues raised.

VI. Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,



BRYAN K. MICK