



City of Oakland

Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)

Monday, March 16, 2026 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Hearing Room 1, First Floor

One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza (City Hall), Oakland, CA 94612

Minutes

Commissioners: Anwar Baroudi (Chair), Benjamin Bartu (Co-Vice Chair), Fatimah Aure (Co-Vice Chair), Jia Wilson, James Carter, Nadia Morales-Saleh, Cynthia Gutierrez, Lauren Reed, Emily Habansky

Commission staff: Anh Nguyen-ADA Programs Division Manager, Mark Romoser-ADA Programs Division Program Analyst I

Presenters: Tom Holub, Champ Stevenson, Daniel Findley, Timothy Green, Amy Ferguson-Yep, Jacque Larrainzar

Other attendees: Brian Hollander, Keana Giles, Anika Sohaana, David Harthul Jr., Lidit Awoke

Attendees on Zoom: Genan, Ami, Debora Izara, Bebe LeGardeur

ASL interpreters: Malia Haymes, Cristiane Crawford

Mark Romoser begins the meeting with a reminder of rules for in-person meetings:

- No food or open drink allowed in Hearing Room 1 to maintain a clean and professional environment.
- Drinks must be in a closed container to prevent any spills or accidents.
- When commissioners speak- please press the top red button that says “mic” and when you are finished, please press the button again.
- To ensure clarity and transparency, when commissioners speak, please state your name before speaking.
- When a member of the audience is speaking or commenting- please first state your name and any affiliations you may have.
- Restrooms are located outside Hearing Room 1, near the elevators.

Chair Baroudi called the meeting to order at 5:37.

Roll Call

- At roll call, quorum was established with eight of nine commissioners present.

Commissioners	Present (x)
Anwar Baroudi (Chair)	X
Jia Wilson (Co-Vice Chair)	X
Fatimah Aure (Co-Vice Chair)	X
Benjamin Bartu	X
James Carter	Absent (excused)
Nadia Morales-Saleh	X
Cynthia Gutierrez	X
Lauren Reed	X
Emily Habansky	X

Open Forum:

- Phillip Smith Jr. submitted a comment about his hopes for more Deaf access in Oakland.

Approval Of Minutes

- The February minutes were approved 8-0. Motion by Co-Vice Chair Wilson, seconded by Co-Vice Chair Aure.

Commissioner’s Announcements

- Co-Vice Chair Wilson noted that she had been working with Comm. Reed, who added that they were working on resource navigation and resource management.

Scraper BART Wellness Center

- Tom Holub and Champ Stevenson gave their presentation.
- Comm. Gutierrez mentioned that she lives in the Arroyo area and has seen children exploring the BART car and considers Scraper to be an asset to the neighborhood.

She then asked if there might be an expansion into Arroyo Viejo Park. Mr. Stevenson replied that there absolutely was. Comm. Gutierrez then offered to help and then asked if there was a restroom available at the 98th Ave. site. Mr. Stevenson replied that there was a nearby restroom in the park.

- Co-Vice Chair Wilson noted that BART cars are generally viewed as accessible for transit use, but might not be fully accessible for this use, and suggested placing buttons at various heights, mirrors so Deaf can see people coming up behind them, and adding wheelchair repair to their services, and sight lines, lighting, and possibly fences for security. Mr. Stevenson replied that the site was next to a tennis court and soccer field and added that the plan was for entrances on both 98th Ave. and B St. with designs on the fences.
- Comm. Morales-Saleh asked if the services would include e-bikes and scooters. Mr. Stevenson replied that they would not, since e-bike repair is specialized. Comm. Morales-Saleh then asked what OPRYD stood for. Mr. Stevenson replied that it stood for Oakland Parks, Recreation, and Youth Development.
- Co-Vice Chair Aure asked where the name Scraper came from. Mr. Stevenson replied that a scraper is a kind of custom car.
- Comm. Reed asked about the capacity for events such as weddings in the space, and whether the bike shop or outdoor space would be used. Mr. Stevenson replied that they were still figuring that out. Mr. Holub added that the car held 100 people when used for transit, but it might be less for events. Comm. Reed then asked about seating in the outdoor space for people with disabilities. Mr. Holub replied that there would be benches across from the BART car. Mr. Stevenson added that the seating should be shaded.
- Chair Baroudi asked if the site was located at the corner of 98th and B. Mr. Stevenson replied that it was. Chair Baroudi then asked if the site might expand further into the park. Mr. Stevenson replied that it absolutely would. Chair Baroudi then asked about funding for the project. Mr. Stevenson replied that they didn't have a final figure, but that they had raised \$200,000 for buildout. Chair Baroudi then asked how permitting was going. Mr. Stevenson replied that it was slow. Chair Baroudi then expressed his approval of the outdoor space and level boarding.
- Comm. Habansky asked about the bike component and expressed approval of access features such as tactile tiling, then asked if there could be another BART car or shipping container. Mr. Stevenson replied that there would not be room for another BART car. Mr. Holub added that there is no recreation center in the park, and

thus not a lot of activity there, which could happen in cooperation with OPRYD. He suggested closing a section of B St. to connect the site to the rest of the park. Chair Baroudi then added that when 98th Ave. is repaved, pedestrian-friendly features could be added. Mr. Stevenson added that they were awarded the BART car, and were the only awardee to place the car on public land.

- Brian Hollander asked if other organizations were doing this elsewhere in Oakland. Mr. Stevenson replied that there were not. Mr. Hollander then asked if the children served had had input into the design. Mr. Stevenson replied that there had not been a lot of input, and added that the aesthetics were largely concerned with celebrating the legacy of BART, and those who were displaced by its construction. Mr. Hollander then added that similar projects in other cities had been successful.
- Jacque Larrainzar asked how the public could help. Mr. Stevenson suggested that people could donate at scraperbiketeam.com.

General Plan Phase 2 Draft Land Use Framework

- Daniel Findley and Timothy Green gave their presentation.
- Co-Vice Chair Wilson asked about improvement of public utilities, and if staff had interacted with the Center for Accessible Technology. Mr. Findley replied that they had not, but would be happy to do so in the future. Co-Vice Chair Wilson noted that C4AT represents disability concerns before the California Public Utilities Commission. She then noted that including people with disabilities in the General Plan was great, and asked if Oakland was only interested in technology and research development rather than the arts. Mr. Findley replied that the technology and research hubs were meant to create development in non-traditional ways, including the arts. Co-Vice Chair Wilson then asked if there were other options for ground-floor units besides underutilized retail, and suggested lower-density buildings like fourplexes. Mr. Green replied that there were state laws mandating higher density, and that high density is required to build a sufficient number of units. He acknowledged that street-level retail in newer buildings hasn't worked, and suggested other uses for them.
- Comm. Habansky asked if the greenways and parks would incorporate biophilic design using local flora and fauna. She gave the example of grassy floating structures in Denmark. She suggested that formerly incarcerated people could create the murals. Mr. Green responded that the greenways would largely run along creeks, which would work nicely with this.

- Chair Baroudi asked if there were maps that weren't color-intensive. Mr. Findley replied that the maps were on the website, and volunteered to check them for accessibility. Chair Baroudi then asked about ground-floor housing for people who would otherwise have to use an unreliable elevator, and whether the city had access to the land for the greenways and parks. Mr. Green replied that not all the land involved was city-owned, but that the 20-year duration of the plan allowed time to acquire it.
- Comm. Wilson asked about using the plan to consolidate the aesthetic identity of Oakland. She added that including tribal resources would be helpful. Mr. Findley replied that those were great considerations to bring up in further engagement, and that they are engaging with tribal cultural resources.

Action Items: Mr. Findley will send a list of his community partners to MCPD and see if there additional disability CBOs to include.

Department of Race and Equity

- Amy Ferguson-Yep and Jacque Larrainzar gave their presentation.
- Comm. Gutierrez asked when the data presented was collected. Ms. Ferguson-Yep replied that she found it online through Alameda County. Comm. Gutierrez then asked about the academy training offered, and if it had a disability component. Ms. Larrainzar replied that they would love to work with us to co-lead a training. Comm. Gutierrez then asked who was invited to the training. Ms. Ferguson-Yep replied that it was primarily for city employees, but that commissioners were also invited. Ms. Larrainzar added that it was mandatory for directors, managers, and supervisors, and voluntary for everyone else.
- Co-Vice Chair Wilson asked if DRE would fund a self-evaluation and transition plan to make infrastructure more accessible. Ms. Larrainzar replied that they would be interested, referenced the Public Facilities Element in the general plan, and added that she worked closely with Planning & Building. Co-Vice Chair Wilson asked if there was a capability to do an internal review of policies, employee manuals, etc.
- Chair Baroudi asked how large DRE was, and what tools it used. Ms. Ferguson-Yep replied that there were three employees who collaborate with other departments, and added that their main tools are Racial Equity Impact Analysis and an Inclusive Engagement Guide.

- Co-Vice Chair Wilson asked if the engagement strategies included relationships with local disability organizations. Ms. Larrainzar replied that they created a community engagement working group, which came to MCPD to get input on what organizations to connect with. She added that these have been compiled into a list accessible to city staff, which was used to develop the Downtown Oakland Specific Plan.
- David Harthul Jr. asked about the proportions of disability among various racial groups, and if age had been taken into account. Ms. Ferguson-Yep replied that that could be the basis for an equity analysis. Mr. Harthul Jr. then asked if stigma around disability affected the reported rates. Ms. Larrainzar replied that immigration regulations caused many people not to report that they have disabilities.

The updated presentation shared at the meeting may be found here:

https://www.oaklandca.gov/files/assets/city/v/1/public-meetings/mayors-commission-on-persons-with-disabilities/2026/2026-neo-for-mayors-commission-on-persons-with-disabilities_updated.pdf

Action Items: Ms. Ferguson-Yep will send revised slide deck and video to staff, to be forwarded to the commissioners & MCPD.

2025 Strategic Plan

- Comm. Gutierrez moved to continue the 2025 strategic plan into 2026. Co-Vice Chair Aure seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Staff Announcements

- Mr. Romoser announced that Oakland Fire Department staff had answered some of the commissioners' questions from a previous meeting, that the film Life After will be shown at Ed Roberts Campus in Berkeley on March 19th, featuring discussion with the filmmakers, and that the Draft Land Use Framework presented earlier would be open for public comment until April 23rd.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27.