

Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting

February 6, 2014

Present: June Akeo, member; Ed Brown, guest; Lisa Aragon, Human Relations Commission; Robert Cooper, Human Relations Commission; Dale Buterbaugh, Deaf Gathering; Kip Morphew, City of Pueblo; Ralph McPherson, co-chair; George O'Brien, co-chair; Don Bruestle, member; Weston Burrer, Pueblo County; Kristen Castor, Secretary; Brenda Broyles, Pueblo Transit; Burt Smith, MV Transportation; Pat Manzanares, Pueblo Transit

Approval of the Minutes

There was no quorum, so the minutes could not be approved. Ralph clarified that as far as merchandise on the sidewalk; the part of the route he has problems with is at the top of the hill at Union and Abriendo not further along Abriendo as stated. The construction at this intersection complicates safe passage further.

City Updates

Pueblo Transit: Brenda Broyles

Burt Smith is the new CitiLift manager from MV Transportation. He has been with the company five years and relocated from Maryland. This operation is smaller. He arrived in August. There should be no change in service. He is learning about the clientele and is again enforcing the rules listed in the handbook. People are not always ready at the beginning to the pick-up window and expect CitiLift to call before they arrive. This is only done in special circumstances.

This is a recertification year. Brenda said this will take longer than usual because it is being done by a committee of people trained to assess abilities. The Committee will have a face to face interview with each rider to see if some can actually use the bus. This will be followed up with transit training. Conditional eligibility will still be available. The process will take a long time. Ridership is increasing and this process seeks to shift as many as possible to the fixed route.

Pueblo Transit is halfway through the process of filling vacancies. The mechanic is on board and there will be 4 part time drivers. One of them is a former employee. Kids Ride Free will return this summer pending approval of city council. This probably cost Pueblo Transit \$80,000 in fares, but the ridership increased, so there was more federal funding, which is a good trade off.

Ralph asked why the bus stop at the new DVR office is on Main*. Pat said Council asked Transit to remove all the buses from Union Avenue, so the closest they can get is Main.

Brenda expressed concern about the Business Plan the students came up with for our RTA project. Kristen said Dr. Wakefield had reservations about this. It was only about C grade work. Brenda said they didn't include data from the Long Range Plan and other resources Transit gave them, and perhaps they didn't know what questions to ask. Transit would be more than willing to work with students on this kind of project.

Public Works: Kip Morphew

Earl is still in ADA Coordinator training and will be evaluating city buildings and services for compliance.

County Update: Weston Burrer

Weston has been trying to determine what transition plans are in place to bring county services into compliance. There is no self-evaluation, so he is starting from scratch. He is speaking with the Director of DSS about effective communication to address Dale's issue. Sean Tapia felt he was spending too much time on Coordinator Training and compliance plans. He has been directed to present to County Commission on March 10 at 2 pm and is putting together a presentation on what the county has, doesn't have, and should have, etc. along with a job description. He is halfway through certification. He has a grievance policy although it has not been formally adopted. There is a HAVA grant to improve access to the County Courthouse so that the ADA office will include all services. Property tax is not included now.

Chair Person's Report

Song of Pueblo

Kristen presented a draft of our findings about making "The Song of Pueblo" more accessible. Dale said captioning should be on a ribbon of black background with white lettering, or on a separate screen so it doesn't blend in with the background colors and become hard to read.

Chamber of Commerce

Kristen said she talked with Rob Gilkerson from Meeting the Challenge about using fold up ramps and door bells. Rob couldn't say it didn't comply, but he didn't like the idea and wouldn't patronize a store that had that kind of designation because it isn't really equal when you have to wait for someone to come and do something. George agreed and Kristen had to admit this could not be recommended. Don asked what Old Colorado City did. Ralph said the new buildings were parking lot flush. The old ones still had steps. There doesn't seem to be an easy way out.

Kristen also responded to a public hearing scheduled at the Union Depot by letting the organizer know that the facility does not meet current ADA standards. The consensus was to continue doing this because all of the problems have already been identified to the owners and are not that hard to fix.

Publicity

Kristen got the announcement in a little after the noon deadline, but it was reported in Saturday's paper. She hasn't added the city clerk to the list.

Emergency Preparedness

George asked that Transit ask each driver what they would do in an emergency as far as personal plans and public availability in the event of an emergency. Pueblo Transit does have a plan and will respond when they have a call. What they do depends on whether the alarm comes during working hours or not. Drivers are also unionized and will only do what the union authorized. They can use volunteers. Dale suggested retired drivers. CitiLift will work within the scope of their contract. There are liability issues to operate outside of contract or collective bargaining agreements. For a major emergency, Transit could probably sign a side agreement. There have been call outs and Transit has responded as planned.

*Todd Falhstrom reports that DVR is moving to 126 W. D Street, Suite 200.

Next Work Session: Thursday, February 20, 2014 El at Pueblo History Museum, 301 North Union from 1-3.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday March 6, 2014 at Pueblo History Museum, 301 North Union from 1-3.

Anyone requiring accommodation should contact Earl Wilkinson at 553-2295 a week before the meeting.