

Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
March 6, 2014

Present: Sharon Campbell, member; George O'Brien, Co-chair; Ralph McPherson, Co-chair; Weston Burrer, County ADA Coordinator; Earl Wilkinson, City ADA Coordinator; Kip Morphew, Facilities Manager; Bill Edwards, member (Center for Disabilities); Ed Brown, City Council; Nicole Eller, Parkview Hospital; Pam Medina, Parkview; Barbara Yaeger, Community Residential and Respite Services; Jo Booms, Interpreter; Jeanie Benfield, Vice-Chair; Robert Cooper, Human Relations Commission; June Akeo, member; Heather Norton, guest; Dale Buterbaugh, member; Kristen Castor, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 1:03.

The Agenda was amended to allow guest speakers to go first due to time constraints.

Handicapped Parking: Pepper Whittleff

Pepper Whittleff was asked to explain the city's policies for adding on street handicapped parking places, especially since adding bump-outs and widening sidewalks for café use has resulted in some loss of parking space. She explained that proposed 2011 guidelines look at the perimeter of a block for the number and design of spaces. Sidewalks greater than 14 feet wide require an access lane and curb ramp, so the space goes in the middle. Narrow sidewalks don't require aisles or new curb ramps, so they can use the existing corner ramp, which saves space.

Some of the existing spaces downtown do not meet these requirements and they will be upgraded as projects allow. This creates problems for downtown because sidewalks are 15 feet and they need a ramp and an aisle, reducing the number of spaces.

The citizen's request program will include businesses. The request must be from someone who drives and experience a barrier to a destination.

Effective Communication at Parkview: Pam Medina

Pam handed out a description of the new Video Remote Interpreting station Parkview has purchased. Before acquiring this mobile device, Parkview would call Sign Language Network because they have the medical certification, but because they travel from Colorado Springs, they could not meet on demand needs as people came in for unscheduled appointments. This new system uses technology called Video Remote Interpreting. It uses a cart, a Work Station on Wheels (WOW) so it

is mobile. The interpreter comes on clearly without much delay. There have been a few experiences since it debuted January 5. It is easy for staff to use. There has been staff training, but time will tell how often the training needs to be repeated.

So far there has been one incident where a patient's surgery was moved up and the cart was used for the deaf parents. The patient is hearing. Dale pointed out that having the patient interpret for parents is unethical. (This patient is an adult, so in this instance it is permitted.) Dale asked how to ask for the VRI. Nicole said they use paper and pencil at admission. George suggested signage to indicate how to ask for it.

Dale wants to see the VRI in action and will schedule a meeting with Pam to do so. He will inform Deaf Gathering about this.

There is no word from Corwin about their efforts.

Sharon asked what they do for hard of hearing. They need an assistive listening system in addition to this. She would be willing to meet with them to discuss what would be appropriate. FM systems are not appropriate because anyone with a receiver can hear the conversation and infrared systems are affected by fluorescent lights.

There is also a need for some disability awareness on how to communicate with people who have impaired speech and to recognize existing disabilities that are not connected to any emergent situation.

Dale reminded everyone that there are APPs for the phone that companies like American Medical Response can use. Purple Communication is one. A card with basic information would be good for Jeanie. There could be a Be On the Look Out (BOLO) for frequent users of hospital services. Jeanie has had several experiences where interpreters were never called even though names and numbers were posted on the white board in her room. Sharon suggested posting above the patient's bed would be more visible.

Pam said a lot of this discussion can go back to the Nurse Governance Board.

There was a question about the role of Colorado Relay. Dale explained that for most relays, the transmitter and receiver can't be in the same room, so it isn't alternative for patient/doctor discussions. There is a system for dual typing. All of these methods rely on English and reading and writing, which are often limited with people who are deaf.

Minutes for January and February were approved as presented

Handicapped Parking: Shelly Taylor

Kristen read the following message from Shelly Taylor, who could not be present.

Mar 4, 2014

Kristen,

I currently have 6 volunteers writing handicap parking citations. In January they wrote \$2,640.00 in citations. I'm still working on numbers for February.

Can you please keep me posted on businesses that you and your group see that either don't have handicap parking or aren't keeping up with signage? Don't hesitate to bring other issues to my attention and I will do my best to address them. I believe there was an issue at one of the Subway locations last time and I spoke with management. I am doing everything I can to keep up with this, but any information from you and your group will be helpful.

I also wanted to ask you about whether or not you see or hear of folks going out late at night and not being able to find a place to park. I had volunteers working all hours, but recently the question was raised why I had them out late in the evening because there probably isn't a large amount of folks out late at night that use handicap parking. We don't want it to look like we are just trying to bring money into the city, but if there are people with handicap placards trying to find a place to park late at night for whatever reason and can't, I want to address this appropriately.

Thank you

Officer Taylor

The consensus is that after 10, only grocery stores, Walmart, etc. are open. 6:00 to 10:00 might be a time to check parking lots, but after that spaces are almost always available. Sharon offered the number for Traffic Control: 553-2502 (non-emergency dispatch.) Sharon will look for the list of problem businesses.

Public Works: Earl Wilkinson

Projects have not gone out to bid, partly because Sam has been on leave. The Skate Park on the east side includes improvements to El Centro. There are design problems. The Dillon flyover is another big project.

Earl's presentation to City Council about ADA compliance was largely an orientation to the Settlement Agreement and the ADA for council members who are not familiar with the history, along with the most recent update. The PowerPoint lists several agreements with other cities and all the agreements in Colorado, including Hayden.

The only item outstanding from the Agreement is the pool house at City Park, which is not specifically listed by omission. Plans were suspended pending efforts to remodel the entire facility, perhaps with an indoor pool.

Transition plans to bring the city into compliance include curb ramps, bus stops, new facilities, a grievance process, inventory sheets for buildings, and other public right of way issues. (Bus stops, crossing signals and sidewalks are all right of way issues.)

Earl wants to hire Meeting the Challenge to develop the transition plan as they are cheaper than any other outside consultants. George recommended using members of the Committee to test plans or verify surveys.
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Changes in the law make it clear what the difference between street maintenance and alteration is. In general, sealing cracks and filling potholes is routine maintenance. Overlay is an alteration and curb ramps are required. The state is also complying with this interpretation.

New construction and alterations require an accessible path of travel. The 2010 regulations allow for disproportionate cost to be considered in alterations if the alterations cost more than 20% of the total cost. Priorities are not well defined in such cases.

The Access Board has adopted the Public Rights of Way Access Guidelines (PROWAG) as Best Practice, but the Department of Justice hasn't officially approved them...

Next step include the ADA Coordinator training, creating a transition plan for bus stops, an inventory of traffic signals, and a detailed survey of city facilities. Input from this Committee continues to be important.

In other news, the Fourth Street redesign is proceeding with bump outs for pedestrian safety. Ramps are about 3,500 apiece. The ADA Symposium is in Denver this year in June.

County Updates: Weston Burrer

The presentation regarding the status of the County ADA Coordinator has been moved to March 24 at 1:30. (Past experience suggests it could be moved again.)

A cursory review identifies the priorities as: effective communications, then facilities, then curb ramps. There is no self-inventory and not much of a transition plan.

Weston has spoken with Karen Ashcraft and will support our efforts to have input in emergency planning after May. The Emergency Operations Center opens April 9 and Weston will work with the ADA Coordinator at the Sheriff's Department. DSS will also have a designated coordinator with Weston overseeing them.

Chairperson's Report: George O'Brien

Kristen referred to the handout on emergency preparation, which identifies specific areas in which we can be involved: preparation, notification, responses, and clean up. Since we have taken steps in some areas, we need to evaluate where we are and what we still need to do. We will take this up in the work session.

The meeting adjourned after 3:00 in the midst of boisterous discussion.

The next work session is Thursday March 20, 2014 at the El Pueblo History Museum, 301 North Union, from 1-3.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday April 3, 2014 at the El Pueblo History Museum, 301 North Union, from 1-3.

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