

Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
September 4, 2014

Kristen Castor, Secretary; Ed Brown, City Council; Ralph McPherson, Co-Chair; Ron Burke, member; John Madrid, member; Jo Booms, member; Jean Benfield, Vice-Chair; Heather Norton, guest; Kip Morphey, City of Pueblo

The August 2014 minutes were amended to add George O'Brien to the list of members present. The discussion about having a grievance policy in place is limited to Behavioral Health Organizations, even though it is a good idea to have one. Minutes were approved as amended.

OLD BUSINESS

City Update

The restrooms at City Park are not ready yet due to outstanding plumbing issues. Finishing the skate park on the East Side is deferred until spring. City Park bathhouses are closed until they can be replaced. Ed Brown said there have been meetings to gather information about options.

Without representation from Public Works, no further updates were possible. It is clear that cub ramp projects are continuing as planned.

County Update

No one from the county was present to give a report. We need to contact Weston Burrer for a time to take a tour of the Judicial Building.

Outstanding issues

Fair Housing Workshop

Ada Clark was planning an event for September. Sharon was working with her on it, but is not present to give a report.

Effective Communication Workshop

Jean said she met with Sharon to begin work on this, but was not clear on how to go about it. Since this is the first time she has organized an event like this, the Committee offered suggestions to help guide the work.

Define effective communication according to the ADA and then specify what the workshop can cover in the time allotted.

Possible topics to cover include:

- When is it necessary to hire an interpreter?
- What are the qualifications under ADA and Colorado law?
- What is the role of VRI?
- How does someone communicate with Jean or anyone with speech impairments?
- What about people with different communication needs such as autism?

Service animals might need to be a separate work shop. The topic will certainly come up, but animals are not communication.

Do we need anyone from the ADA Center? If so, their schedule is the first thing to figure out.

Who is the target audience—this includes people with disabilities, but possibly also city and county officials, hospitals, PCC and CSU, and the business community,

How big a room do we need?

What are some good dates and times to attract everyone we want?

How much time do you need to be effective?

Note: There are trainings for teaching police how to deal with special needs populations.

Chairperson's Report

George is working with Laura Whittrup on how to use texting in an emergency. This is now part of a federal requirement. The stumbling block is that Century Link has to authorize the connection with cell carriers. Now the cell carriers have come together on this issue. It is more important than ever as people dump land lines.

The meeting adjourned at 2:39.

The next work session is September 18, 2014 from 1-3 at El Pueblo History Museum.

The next regular meeting of this Committee will be Thursday
October 4, 2014 from 1-3 at El Pueblo History Museum.

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