

Pueblo and PACOG
Minutes of the Meeting
December 4, 2014

Present: George O'Brien, CoChair; Ralph McPherson, Co-chair; Sharon Campbell, member; Jean Benfield, Vice-Chair; John Madrid, member; Heather Norton, guest; Lisa Aragon, Human Relations Commission; Joe Martellaro, Pueblo City; Laura Whittrup, Pueblo Police Department; Kristen Castor, Secretary

Approval of November Minutes

In the Public Works section, the street identified as "Royal" should be Arroyo. George O'Brien should be identified as Co-chair, not just chair.

Jean moved and John seconded approval of minutes as amended above.
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Texting 911: Laura Whittrup

This option was supposed to be live and operational two years ago. It is called Short Message System. Demand is there and will probably increase exponentially when it is ready. There were over 80,000 abandoned 911 calls of a total of more than 300,000 last year. There is a lot more technology involved in Police Dispatch than ever before.

Only one Com Center (Larimer County) in Colorado has a test center for trying out new things. Data about cell phone callers is limited and does not pinpoint the location. However, there are nearly 34 million Americans who have speech or hearing issues that could benefit from a texting option. The four biggest cell phone carriers are in agreement that it needs to be done, but there is no funding source to develop it. Pueblo has the technology, but many small towns so not. There are over 6000 stations across the country that would all need training on texting and newer technology.

Right now a text message to Pueblo Police Department goes through, but it bounces back as a message to make a voice call.

The biggest barrier is funding and it will probably require a federal mandate for both equipment and training. In Pueblo, the PPD is upgrading its technology, computers and software.

We, as individual citizens, need to be sure we are on the Emergency Notification System for land lines, or the Opt In on the city website for cell phones.

Regular Updates: Absent

No city or county personnel were present for updates.

Effective Communication

Dale went into the hospital for what he thought was a fairly simple procedure on his back and awoke to find a rod down his back. Communication at the hospital was good, but dispatch dropped all attempts to get him home care and he eventually went to the agency that had been working with a family member and so was familiar with his needs. He expects to be back in January.

Sharon will set another meeting with Dale as soon as he is well enough.

Chairpersons' Report

George has met with Charlene Simms at Rawlings Library about the adaptive technology stations we set up several years ago. Software, microphones and headsets, have been dispersed and the stations are underutilized for lack of visibility and training. They are planning on buying new software as part of the push to use technology. George will be working with the director of IT about the equipment. It includes one on one training.

Sharon noted the listening systems are not functional and need to be replaced as well.

The students from the Hasan School of Business have submitted their feasibility study for a Pueblo to Pueblo West route. They decided a single park and ride location by the Safeway would be more reasonable than a shuttle around Pueblo West. The line would need two busses running at least once an hour. The route goes along Highway 50 to Elizabeth to take some load off the current Highway 50 bus and then down to the Transit Center. There were some assumptions that skew the results. They were not counting the federal subsidy Pueblo Transit gets to offset costs and they assumed busses would run full every hour. Nonetheless, the study indicates that it is feasible to propose such a route. At the last PACOG meeting, Sal Pace requested that the lawyer look into an RTA to support the Southwest Chief—probably upgrading the tracks and or depot for the Pueblo stop. Kristen has sent his office information on what we have done in the past.

The draft slate for officer elections was passed out so that everyone has a chance to think about who wants to run and who to vote for. The slate will

be formalized at the January meeting before the vote. Additions before the meeting should be sent by email to Kristen.

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

There will be no work session due to the holiday season.

The next regular meeting of this Committee will be Thursday January 8, 2015 from 1-3 at El Pueblo History Museum (This is the second Thursday—January 1 is a holiday.)