

Pueblo and PACOG ADA Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
March 5, 2015

Present: Jeanie Benfield, Co-Chair; Sharon Campbell, Co-chair; John Madrid, member; Bill Edwards, member; Earl Wilkinson, ADA Coordinator; Kip Morphew, Facilities Manager; Ralph McPherson, member; Weston Burrer, County ADA Compliance Officer; Terry Skinner, guest; Heather Norton, guest; Don Bruestle, Vice-chair; George O'Brien, member; Ed Brown, city council; Dale Buterbaugh, member; Kristen Castor, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 1:04.

Minutes were accepted as presented.

Guest Speakers: KOAA Reporter

A reporter from KOAA arrived because she had questions about parking at the Judicial Building. Weston offered that the current number of spaces had been estimated using another similarly sized city and building and had been considered adequate. The consensus among members was that during the design phase, someone made mention of a shuttle to Midtown. This was only an idea, not a plan ready for action. It does not pertain to the ADA unless the shuttle becomes a reality. Further discussion was tabled for that reason.

Review of Annual Documents

The schedule, work plan, and ground rules were all adopted. Ralph will check to see if the web site is accessible to screen readers. There needs to be a tab on the city homepage for ADA complaints that link to the ADA page.

Effective Communication

Dale experienced several barriers the last time he was at St. Mary Corwin Hospital to assist a friend who was having a procedure done. It took 20 minutes to get the VRI set up and the signal did not carry into every room where it was needed. It is possible to get Internet at the hospital, but Dale's videophone was blocked so that he didn't have another means of access. He was also told that he had to check his dog in with Security because there have been complaints about dogs and they want to be sure they are certified service dogs.

Pueblo Transit: Brenda Broyles

Brenda Broyles says that a shuttle to Justice Center may be in the works.

On Monday, Pueblo Transit is going to City Council at 7 PM for a public hearing on a proposal to increase fares. In November there were public meetings on the fare increase. Passes are also going up 15%. By law single fare for elderly/disabled must be half of regular fare, which is .60 cents. Copies of the ordinance are on the city meeting agenda. One person was upset about meeting at 7 PM when no transit is available.

There was a meeting this morning about the RTA and the benefits it has for transportation, streets, trails, etc. We will get new CitiLift vans for replacement of old ones. The request for this year has to go through CDOT to the FTA for a total of four new vans and one bus using funds from 2013, 2014 and 2015. Old vans are either donated to a non-profit or sold on the city website. They have vastly exceeded their "useful life" when replaced.

Transit only has 65 shelters, all placed, and no more. Street Media has no plans to purchase any more because they are very expensive. By contrast, Transit has 200 benches.

City Updates

We are compiling a list of potential stakeholders for input on emergency planning. Earl will soon start to work on calling people and setting things up.

The Alan Hamel project has been advertised for construction. The city had to rip out an area near City Hall so now the road will be widened with bike lanes both sides and both sidewalks will be widened and include street-scaping. Construction will begin in mid- late April. This week work started on the skate park. Work has started on the Dillon Flyover at Dillon and Elizabeth and will take 18 months to complete. Plans for modifying City Hall are at Ralph's desk. Construction will start when the funds have been accumulated.

City pools are being readied for summer season.

Earl will put an ADA complaint link on the Committee website.

County Updates

There is nothing new with ADA compliance to report. Most projects now involve repair and maintenance, roof repairs, HVAC and cooling systems, etc.

Several members wanted to revisit the Justice Center since so few of us were able to participate in the walk through. Weston said the project has been closed out and there is no way to shift funds to address any issues unless something is blatantly out of compliance.

Ralph reports that there needs to be a phone in the disability office because the last time he was there only one person was on duty and did not even acknowledge Ralph because she was busy with another customer. Those clerks handle motor vehicles only, so one way to handle other issues is to have a list of phone numbers to call up to that department and have someone come down.

There are still some signage issues.

Jeff Techner is the compliance officer at the county jail for internal matters.

Access at Libraries

The doors to the men's stall in some facilities are on backwards. The library is working on its Assistive Technology and is adding a laptop with Dragon Naturally Speaking. George has recommended the correct microphone. Nuance is the company that owns DNS and the price is high, so George wants to generate a lot of interest for it to make it worth the investment. Ralph would also like to update the JAWS work station. Sharon notes that the listening systems are not functional anymore and there wasn't much advertising for them. Heather also wants a text to voice reader like Kurzweil that could work with JAWS

The Library Board meets on the 3 rd Thursday and it might be worth our while to attend.
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Next Work Session: Thursday, March 12, El Pueblo History Museum, 301 North Union, 1-3.

Next Meeting: April 2, El Pueblo Museum, 301 north Union, 1-3

Anyone requiring accommodation should contact Earl Wilkinson at 553-2295 a week before the meeting, especially when requesting interpreters for the deaf.