

Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
May 7, 2015

Present: Kyle Hance, Volunteers Assisting Pueblo Police (VAPP); Cody Selves, VAAP; Brandon Beauvais, Pueblo Police Department; Don Bruestle, Vice Chair; Weston Burrer, County Compliance Officer; George O'Brien, member; Sam Vigil, Pueblo Public Works; Earl Wilkinson, Pueblo ADA Coordinator; Ralph McPherson, member; Jo Booms, interpreter; Jeanie Benfield, Co-Chair; Sharon Campbell, Co-Chair; Amy Robertson, Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center (CREEC); Kristen Castor, Secretary; Ron Burke, member; Ed Brown, City Council; Dale Buterbaugh, member

The meeting was called to order at 1:08.

The minutes approved with correction of 'to' on page 2 in the Action Box referring to placement of bus shelters as follows:

Brenda will give Earl the specs and he will find a manager at the Judicial Building to talk to in order to get this done.

Handicapped Parking: Brandon Beauvais, Volunteers Assisting Pueblo Police (VAAP)

Officer Beauvais introduced two new volunteers, Kyle Hance and Cody Selves, who have passed the training course and are writing tickets. There is a new orange leaflet to use as education for drivers. Warnings outnumber tickets. Volunteers understand they need to be available for court. Repeat offenders can be identified by the judge. The volunteers work afternoons and evenings. There are two cars for the volunteer program. Ralph noted that end zones are striped for safety and wondered if motorcycles should be allowed to park there at all. It is clear they are not allowed in the access lanes that are part of a designated handicapped space. Sam's Club and Walmart get a lot of coverage. George said the third of the month is a time when many disabled customers get food stamps or SSI and need access to that parking.

Ed Brown's feedback is that the handicapped parking program is appreciated and well enforced.

We might write to Barbara Vidmar about donating a wrapped a car to the VAAP.

City Updates

Sam passed around the plans for the Corwin Safe Routes to School project. It includes curb ramps on Lakeview and a median. There is also new sidewalk where there isn't any now along the football field to the drop off section from Brown to Lake. Bids opened May 6 and could also include patching of sidewalks on the north side if there is money left over.

The intersection of 3rd and Main is being revamped. It includes replacing existing curb and gutter and replacing brick pavers with colored concrete. There will also be a new crosswalk. The old pavers will replace landscaping. There will be one lane on Main open at all times. 3rd will be two way until the project completes to accommodate access to parking lots. This is up for bid on May 13.

The rain has slowed work on El Quinto Sol, which was featured as an asset to the east side in the Chieftain recently.

The contractor has issues with the delivery of the Greyhound shelter at 3rd and Court. It is a CDOT project and will be installed quickly once it arrives.

The ADA curb ramp program is continuing as planned.

The Plaza Verde project improvements to the shelter and playground are underway.

Then City hall interior remodel is scheduled for approval next Monday May 11.

The streetscape project next to Memorial Hall on Grand will start after the Wild West Fest.

In Bessemer Park, the brick pavers are being replaced to reduce trip hazards.

Emergency Response Planning

There was a staged exercise on May 6. It was too late for us to be involved because it was already set up.

But we need to get in touch with Art Pope now so we can be included as victims next year, and perhaps as consultants on disability issues.
--

County Report: Weston Burrer

There is nothing new to report. The gardens at the courthouse are themselves accessible, but getting to them may be difficult: there is a wall to get over. Phase II of the project will create an accessible path. There is no time for facility planning to survey all county buildings. This month is when Weston has to have the priority projects complete because the budget process starts June first. All capital projects are now coming out of reserves, so there really isn't money to start anything new.

Effective Communication

Even though the situation at the Daily Grind has been remedied, and the sign saying "No Dogs Allowed" has been removed, Ralph wants to follow up and find out how it happened. Earl says he didn't do the talking.

Kristen will send Ralph an electronic copy of CREEC contact information.
--

Amy Robertson said CREEC was formed to allow her firm to do training as well as practice law. CREEC is now negotiating with Denver because the city has lapsed on replacing curb ramps. There is also work with effective communication in jails and prisons and with housing. CREEC does charge fees when there are funds available, but concentrates on negotiating. Membership is free and allows CREEC to have more clout when pursuing specific issues in different venues. Membership is at <http://creeclaw.org/join/>

There is a project on effective communication in the medical community. Jo explained what Jeanie's problems have been with the hospitals. Her communication needs are always ignored, even when well documented, and Jo has even been forced to leave after she tried to tell a doctor that Jean was too hot and wanted the blanket removed.

George brought up a concern about medical facilities that do not maintain or even know how to operate their equipment. There was also a discussion about the issue of calling in fire fighters to do heavy lifting. It has not been resolved yet, but the plan is to charge a fee for that service because it is affecting readiness for other needs.

Sharon said people who are hard of hearing are falling between the cracks. Assisted listening devices are available but seldom used. It is not recognized as a real problem.

Ralph described how he has been asked to sign documents he hasn't read.

Amy said universities have been having Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) that are not accessible to screen readers or to people who are deaf. CREEC is also working to get Relay calls accepted. Relay has been used to defraud businesses and so this is an added barrier. Access to sidewalks is another issue.

The Committee explained that we have several pieces of a sidewalk policy, including several possible tools for citizen assessment of sidewalk conditions, but nothing in writing to pull it all together. Amy said that put us miles ahead of most cities.

Chairpersons' Report

The Pueblo Police Department has scheduled a training workshop for July 9th with the outline due by June 12th. Sharon has gotten hold of a training used in Colorado Springs. Amy would like to see it. Dale said there has been some training by Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH.) This training should be focused on the deaf community itself as well. The interaction goes both ways. It will also include how to identify someone who is hearing impaired.

The meeting adjourned at 3:03.

The next regular meeting is Thursday June 4th at 1:00 pm at the El Pueblo History Museum at 301 North Union.

There will be no work session in June.