

Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
June 4, 2015

Present: Dale Buterbaugh, member; Weston Burrer, Pueblo County; Kip Morphew, Facilities Manager; Ralph McPherson, member; Ed Brown, City Council; Earl Wilkinson, ADA Coordinator; Bill Edwards, Center for Independence; Jean Benfield, Co-Chair; Jo Booms, interpreter; Kristen Castor, Secretary; George O'Brien, member; Ed Vaught, member

Guest Speaker: Greg Harriman, Golden Gate Transportation

Greg Harriman explained that Golden Gate Manor is a care center that provided transport for its own residents, and then got into medical transportation at the county level before buying out Citi Cab. For medical transport, you should call Department of Social Services (DSS) at least 4 days ahead. Most transactions are more easily done by email, which accommodates Dale. Greg will help his clients sign up. Parkview and Corwin have vouchers for patients that have no way home.

City Cab has an app you can download to your phone. Dale says it is not accurate. It does not recognize Dale's address. Dale would rather not wait until he is done and the have medical staff call for a pickup. DSS does not return calls, so it is better to call Citicab. DSS is hiring staff for medical transport. There was an accessible vehicle for a while, but it wasn't used much and administrative details are more important for the moment. There are plans to be accessible as soon as communication and organization have improved.

City Updates

Streetscapes on Hector Garcia along Memorial Hall are ongoing. The sidewalk is done so that people can get in. SRDA will lose some parking spaces that are in the right of way.

The skate park is going well.

FEMA came in yesterday, June 3, to assess the flood damage on the Fountain. There are 1000-1200 feet of trail that are in the creek as of now. The embankment by Walmart has lost 400 feet and needs replacing. The Army Corps of Engineers may help. Most of the previous flood abatement areas have been washed away. 12000 CFS is the highest flow in recent years.

County Updates

There are no county updates, but Weston is still working on the transition plan. Safety is the only priority now. The floor plans for the bathrooms in the courthouse are accessible, but this isn't how they are in actuality.

The demonstration garden is not accessible. Phase II will remove the granite wall and make a pathway up to it, but that may wait for a different grant.

Effective Communication: Dale Buterbaugh

There was a new staff person at the library who didn't know that service dogs were allowed.

Dale just spoke with Laura Whittrup about getting a couple of VRI systems for routine traffic stops. She is also keeping Dale abreast of 911 texting service.

On June 20th from 12-5 at Mineral Palace near 19th there will be a Deaf Gathering Picnic and all our members are invited.

There is an issue with a dentist that didn't want interpreters after the first visit. A few members of Deaf Gathering did a role play with Bill Edwards. The dentist actually has the right to choose, according to Bill, and Dale is going to look up what the rights are Deaf. Jean asked what would happen if you couldn't read and write, which is the only other way to communicate.

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

Kristen spoke with Dave Feamster about spearheading the RTA. He said he was interested in hearing more, but asked several good questions about the feasibility of a public transit subsidy:

- What is the ridership?
- What is the ratio between ridership and total population?
- How much does revenue from the fare box contribute?
- What would this do to our already high tax rate?
- What does Pueblo West get out of it?
- Why is an RTA more likely to succeed than any other ballot issue in recent years, notably the one for police and fire?

Chairpersons' Report

Emergency Preparation

George called the Red Cross to speak to Larry Corbet for a workshop on sheltering in place at 1:30 Saturday at Pueblo Community College. He also asked if Community Resource and Respite (CR & R), which manages the home where Jean lives, would be interested in Red Cross Training.

Access at the Library

George also brought about the concern of the loss of the assistive technology stations at the library. We need to approach it from the point of view of access to programs and services. If computers are available for people to write letters, then programs need to be there for people with different disabilities. There are some barriers we know of already:

The FM systems do not work. They are necessary for speakers in the conference rooms.

The website requires a card number to do searches or access a database. This is not accessible to the blind.

If public computers allow people to write letters, then some kind of voice to text system is necessary.

Text readers and magnifying software are for different disabilities. Electronic text should work with screen readers. Kurzweil offers one such system.

Dale says Dragon Naturally Speaking (DNS) has an Add On that should recognize people with difficult speech. Ed Vaught described the training program DNS uses to train the computer to recognize voices. It should be able to accommodate John and Jeanie at this point in its evolution.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45.

The next regular meeting of the Pueblo/PACOG ADA Advisory Committee is Thursday July 2, 2015 at El Pueblo History Museum at 301 North Grand from 1:00 to 3:00.

Anyone needing accommodation should contact Earl Wilkinson at 553-2274 a week before the meeting.