

Pueblo ADA Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
June 2, 2011

Present: Terry Skinner, guest; Vickie Weeks, member; Bill Zwick, Planning and Zoning; Kip Morphew, Facilities Manager; Bella Trujillo, Human Resources; Sam Vigil, Public Works; John Madrid, member; Ron Burke, member; Mike Harriman, Pueblo County Facilities Manager; Latisha Bunch, member; Cindy Montanez, Chamber of Commerce, Ralph McPherson, member; Kristen Castor, Secretary; Jean Benfield, Vice Chair.

**Memorial Hall Update: Bill Zwick**

Bill Zwick presented conceptual plans for the renovation of Memorial Hall. Landscaping will include wider sidewalks, street-scaping, and a center lane down Grand Avenue, which will become the emergency egress when the area is blocked off for events.

The architect envisions an addition on the back of the building to house utilities, dressing rooms, and docking for large trailers. Inside the seating is being pushed to the wall with a perimeter hallway providing access to the seats. There will be a wall to separate sound and lighting from the entry area from City Hall. There are lifts to go down to the access aisles. There are also ramps at the back of the stage, from the loading docks, and to the dressing rooms. Two rows of seats are being removed in the front to enlarge the stage and create an apron that can be raised or lowered to serve as a pit or an addition to the stage. There is an ongoing discussion about lobby space and cuing lines while people wait for the performance. There is virtually no space for that now and it could involve sharing use of City Hall.

George O'Brien asked about the signage that will direct people to various entrances and exits. Bill Zwick said that is essential, especially considering that the corner of Grand and Main is a major intersection, yet that is where the stage entrance is currently planned, though that may be changing. This kind of detail is worked out in the design development stage, which is just starting. It is complicated by the fact that nothing can be attached to the exterior wall of the building without defacing it. There will be more public hearings about the design and it is important to keep this issue in mind.

John Madrid spoke about how much current handicapped parking is being lost to the street-scape and thinks a parking garage needs to be built on the Urban Renewal plot where the old Health Department used to be. Right now there are 4 handicapped spaces planned at City Hall, but this issue is fluid.

Terry Skinner asked about how to keep ramps from being blocked during events. This should be referred to the Chamber of Commerce.

Kristen Castor said she represented the concerns for assistive listening and electronic captioning at the public hearing on Wednesday June 1 and was assured that the box seating will be used for this purpose and the technology will accommodate captioning on screens.

Bill Zwick asked who would be interested in joining a stakeholder group to continue giving input into the design development phase on a more intense basis. Jean, John and Terry expressed an interest, but only one member is requested to keep the group manageable. Kristen Castor pointed out that Jean Benfield will need an assistant for purposes of communication.

Anyone who wants to participate as a stakeholder in the design development phase of the Memorial Hall project should email Kristen Castor with a description of why they are interested and she will forward this to Bill Zwick for selection.

### **ADA Training**

Bella Trujillo brought a schedule of online trainings from Meeting the Challenge. These do not cover our areas of interest, which are the changes put into effect on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

The dates Kristen had originally planned have passed. Members agreed to poll on new dates for the ADA Training.

### **Judicial Center Design: Mike Harriman**

The county is moving ahead with the construction of the Judicial Center, which is funded with Referendum C money. The design is complete and the project is moving into construction plans.

There will be a review of the designs for the new Pueblo County Judicial Center on June 16 from 1-3 at the El Pueblo Museum in the smaller conference room to the right of the front door. All members are encouraged to attend and give input as the project is moving forward quickly.

Mike Harriman also noted that Bob Schmidt has been hired as the new Director of Public Works for Pueblo County and will be attending our meetings as ADA Coordinator for Pueblo County.

## **Curb Ramp Update: Sam Vigil**

There are several public works projects involving access that are ongoing and Sam Vigil provided a list to help put them in prospective.

- Citywide construction of curb ramps funded with the CDBG set aside of \$400.00 is ongoing.
- There is also a pre construction meeting for the curb ramp project along the 2500 block of East 8<sup>th</sup> this week.
- The Highway 78 Trail Reconstruction Project starts next week.
- The Lake Avenue Streetscape project started this week.
- Fire Station #4 is going to City Council for award of the contract.
- Exhibit A, which was provided as a handout, is a list of proposed curb ramp and sidewalk improvements submitted for additional CDBG funding by the East Side Neighborhood Association. The ENA has come up with a plan to address neighborhood needs in a grid form so that all needs are eventually addressed. This project has bid out and will be completed. Next year it will address only sidewalk repair.
- There is a new project proposed for Broadway and Abriendo with bump outs at the corners and a center median. The grade and parking areas will be addressed in the public right of way. It is advertised for bids next week.

## **Public Works: Kip Morphew**

Kip Morphew noted that the bathrooms the city purchased from the remodel of the I-25 rest stop north of Pinion are arriving next week and will be placed at Mineral Palace Park near the swimming pool and at City Park by the dog park. Kristen Castor noted that access at both parks is limited to areas where there is a curb ramp over the WPA project curbing.

Kip Morphew agreed to bring a map of the City Park and Mineral Palace Park to the Judicial Center review on June 16. Meanwhile, Committee members are encouraged to identify areas where curb ramps are needed and mark them so that they can be put in.

## **Chamber of Commerce: Cindy Montanez**

Cindy Montanez is the Chamber of Commerce representative at the Visitor Center at El Pueblo Museum. She asked about access during the Wild West Fest. John Madrid was impressed that the entire parking lot at the Professional Bull Riders Association was reserved for handicapped parking. Cindy Montanez noted that The Chamber also hired a wheelchair vendor.

Several members expressed concerns about access at curb ramps and to sidewalks during set up of the event as well as during it. Vendors use the ramps to load their merchandise, which is permissible, but then they need to clear the ramp and the area around it and in front of their stall so that people can travel through the event.

Ralph McPherson says he runs into barriers at B and Union every time there is an event and also in the area behind the Depot. Barricades are an additional barrier for all of our members during events because they often block access to the sidewalk in their attempt to limit entrance to a street. Curb ramps cannot be blocked unless the entire sidewalk is closed to the general public for any use.

Kristen Castor explained that there is an additional issue with the shuttle service at Mid Town during the Chili Fest. When shuttle service is offered to the general public, it MUST also be offered to wheelchair users. Last year, the shuttle drivers directed wheelchair users to the reserved lot at the Bull Riders. While it is appreciated that this parking has been set aside for people with disabilities, it does not relieve The Chamber of the requirement for accessible shuttle service. The problem is that The Chamber cannot use Pueblo Transit vehicles because of federal restrictions. Kristen Castor pointed out that SRDA has its own transportation system and does contract the vans out for special events.

Cindy Montanez will contact George Chintala at SRDA to see if The Chamber can contract his paratransit vans for the Chili Fest.
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George O'Brien expressed his extreme frustration with hospitality and access at the current Chamber of Commerce headquarters on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. He felt there was no appreciation of handicapped access issues when he presented his concerns about access at the Chili Fest last year and was put off by the unwelcoming attitude of staff people present in the lobby at the Chamber when he came in for an appointment about the event. He presented a recent legal decision by the Justice Department making it clear that access is not optional. Cindy Montanez assured him that her presence at the El

Pueblo Museum is part of a concerted effort to be more open to the public and she will strive to address his concerns.

Kristen Castor will email Cindy Montanez with material about access during events.

### **The Annual Report: Kristen Castor**

Kristen Castor explained that the document she had emailed to Bella Trujillo for copies was not the completed version and read through the draft she had prepared. Kip Morphew pointed out that the renovation of the City Park bathhouse is not scheduled. City Park was not included in the Settlement Agreement and so had been scheduled for last.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

There were no corrections, and so the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**The Work Session for the ADA Committee is scheduled for Thursday June 16 from 1:00 to 3:00 at the El Pueblo Museum in the smaller conference room at the front. Topics under discussion are:**

- **Review of plans for the new Judicial Center**
- **Final approval of the Annual Report.**

**The next meeting of the Pueblo ADA Advisory Committee is Thursday July 7 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the El Pueblo Museum at 301 North Union Ave.**