

ADA Advisory Committee Minutes 10-6-11

Present: Sharon Campbell, Chair; Jeannie Benfield, Vice Chair; Kristen Castor, Secretary; Judy Carder, Disabled Veterans Transportation; Joan Norman, VA VS Specialist; Bob Schmidt, Pueblo County Public Works Director; Kip Morphew, City of Pueblo; Edward Vaughn; Donald L. Bruestle; Jo Booms; Ralph McPherson; Terry Skinner; Terri Rose; George O'Brien; Brenda Broyles, Pueblo Transit; Chantal Woodward, MV Transit; Ron Burke.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

Transit Report:

1. Citizen's Advisory Committee of Transit team. Kristen attended the meeting by teleconference. PACOG is allocating money to buy trolleys. Brenda Broyles was talking about funding; the City has funding for trolleys, but not operations. This is an opportunity for the ADA Committee. Union Avenue is not very accessible. We can approach the business owners about using portable ramps to get wheelchair users into their businesses. When we talk about building a permanent ramp that will be on the sidewalk, you run into problems with building codes, among others. Businesses can borrow money to make their bathrooms accessible once the customers come in.

Don needs to find out if Greyhound, bridge, or state funding can roll over to operate the project; bridges and the trolley are supposed to start in the summer of 2012. The second project is 4-5 more trolleys, which Brenda hopes to get from an auction in Galveston. She hopes to have the trolleys in 4-5 months. At the bus station, a corner will be enclosed to build a ticket counter for Greyhound. Because they need it to be ready by February, between Pueblo Transit and city funds, the City is getting it built. With \$20,000 from the state and \$5,000 from Greyhound, they are putting in curb cuts, concrete work, a place for cargo for Greyhound, and enclose a section in area for intercity buses to keep people out of the weather.

Kristen said that they also talked about feedback on the 4th street redesign project. The state is replacing all the traffic signals along 4th street, so they have to do concrete and other work. They will put in curb ramps, fix sidewalks, and do other things. So, Pepper Whitliff looked for ways to improve 4th street. The proposals are creative, and include a walkability project. One alternative they are considering is changing 4th street to 3 lanes, one a center turn lane, and widening the sidewalks along businesses from Elizabeth to Bradford. On the City website there is a link under "What's Going On," that has the 4th street project, so you can see all the choices. With Option C, 6th stays one-way and 5th becomes 2-way. This is an advantage for people departing who may have to drive one-way on West St., transporting inmates, etc. from the future Justice Center. Bob Schmidt said that he also moved the handicapped ramp in the new facility. The ADA Committee needs to work with Pepper Whitliff. Unfortunately, we only have money for traffic signal replacement, not new sidewalks. Pepper said we are losing our downtown, so she is

working to change that. She will put sidewalks in the transportation plan, so we can get grants, as money becomes available.

Citilift Report:

Chantal Woodward passed out a spreadsheet with ride statistics. One issue is addresses; the ParkWest surgery center on the lower level has a front and back. The rider may need to be in back, but gives the address in front. They need to say east or west. There is a similar issue with other destinations; Universities shopping malls, and other places have no visible address. The person taking and placing the call need to be as specific as possible. The Committee needs to talk to mall management about labeling the doors, perhaps numbering and labeling the entrances. There are 20 no-shows a day, and Citilift has not been exercising the drop from list for no-shows. If they plan to cut someone off, they send two letters first. First they suspend the person for a month. These costs are very high.

Call mall folks about other accessibility issues

Local Emergency Planning Committee Report: George O'Brien reported that all first responders have an opportunity for people with disabilities to register for a database so we can let them know about our disabilities. After asking public transit drivers what training they get in case of a hazmat situation, the State Patrol will give free training for all drivers on what to do in that case. This training is important because there are huge amounts of hazardous materials going through Pueblo. The training has a second purpose; if a driver sees something that could be a potential problem, they can call their dispatch, which will alert the State Patrol.

Help America Vote Act: Kristen went to the County Courthouse to see the basement recently; she did not see any sign a couple of months ago about the accessibility changes that will let people with mobility impairments vote. The County Clerk has until 2012 to make the changes. We have talked with Bo Ortiz about the building not being very accessible. It is a long hike to the elevators, there is no way to expand the elevator, which is too small for large wheelchairs or scooters, and the elections department is on the 3rd floor at the other end of building from the handicapped entrance. Someone asked for assistance by calling from their car to get new handicapped parking plates, and was told that they would not help her. Our proposal is to turn the facility manager's office on that floor into an office to help people with disabilities. Someone from that office will do any running around to inaccessible places that needs to be done. Bob Schmidt pointed out that it is a historic building with no space to expand the elevators. That office is being overhauled right now. There is also a training issue here; if a person with disability calls for help, they must send an employee to help. Also, there needs to be better signage. A sign needs to be placed just inside the East entrance, on the outside of the building; and on the outside of all parking areas. And the lady's room in the Courthouse basement stinks, literally, and is not accessible. Bob Schmidt will bring information on this to the next meeting.

Issues with County Properties: The Social Services office on Desert Glower has a lot of problems. The east end of the parking lot does not have handicapped parking signs and the wheelchair ramp is at the wrong end. This is where you get food stamps, child care, etc. **The plan is to schedule a meeting with Bob Schmidt. Terry Skinner and Ron will be on the committee to go see the Social Services property with Bob.**

Bob Schmidt report: The County is evaluating the accessibility issues; they plan to put in larger turning radii, but they may not be large enough for large chairs or scooters. People using enlarged chair, scooters, will find that the new requirements at the Judicial building works for them. They will have a work session with the architect Tuesday where the Commissioners will sit down with them and talk about the building itself. They want get a “Pueblo flavor” final style, versus a “box.” FEMA is paying for the Emergency Operations Center. The Judicial building will be five stories.

Other County questions. Sam Vigil needs to get together with Bob Schmidt and figure out when to do a full facilities training on the new ADA guidelines. We want to get Rod Gilkerson from DBTAC to do the training for County engineers. **Sam Vigil; send information to get together.**

We also need to update the training on the new ADA guidelines for the building code enforcers.

As far as ADA compliance for the parks, the City has money to do a lot for Mineral Palace Park, but not much money for City Park.

Wheelchair accessible cabs; This will be explored more next month. Medicaid used to pay the taxi bills, and the cab company here is interested in why they stopped getting that business. Medicaid has a duty to pay for medical transport; **Kristen will send what Julie Reiskin sent her to Sharon.**

We need to sign up at SRDA for work sessions. Jo will send out invites for the work sessions from 1-3. NOTE: WORK SESSIONS HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT SRDA.

Jo needs an updated list of who she is supposed to be contacting for work sessions and meetings. We also need a separate list for consumers to call, and an e-mail list for everybody else. **Kristen will send this information to Jo.**

Don Brustle said that PC has grants for students to intern. We should see if we can get an intern to help with building surveys and clerical work.

Kristen will be interviewed in the Chieftain soon. **NOTE: THE ARTICLE APPEARED OCTOBER 24.** Ada Clark expects the Community Development Block Grant to be cut a lot. This means looking at cutting back curb ramp moneys. Jerry Pacheco thinks the City is amenable to that. This does not mean giving up on ADA compliance; **we should be reviewing the settlement agreement soon, since it is nearly**

complete. We must continue this committee beyond settlement agreement fix. Pacheco says it will not disappear. We also need to watch sidewalk policy issues; Public Works is more aggressive about putting in curb ramps than they have been. We will get requests from outside CDBG areas and will put them in. We need to watch to see that the City has a commitment to repair and maintain sidewalks as opportunities present themselves. Squeaky wheel gets the grease, but when the money runs out, every wheel squeaks. We need to keep this issue in front of our elected officials.

The triplet recycle bins are put pretty far from the curb; this may be an accessibility issue. We need to talk to Jennie Eikleman. They were hoping foot traffic would use it.

Kristen wanted to address City Council about the costs of the City Hall fix, and stress how much of the cost is due to legally required access. She'll get info from Sam Vigil and go testify.

We also need to ask Earl Wilkerson where the Justice Department is with the Settlement Agreement; will they do a review? We also have a blanket complaint to the City Government about businesses not putting in handicapped ramps, and parking signage. We have a spreadsheet that needs to be sent to Ron Burke. We also need to invite the two Chambers of Commerce to our meeting in January to discuss access. We want to know how we can encourage business owners to do things they need to do to be accessible. Failure to do that costs them a lot of money. We need to talk to the employers, and set up something they can control, like a sheltered workshop, sponsored jobs, or other things to show them what great employees people with disabilities make, as well as great customers.

Wounded Veterans also have an issue of access to businesses. Terry Skinner knows the Veterans Council and needs to connect with them.

Kip's recipe:

Oatmeal cookies

1 ½ cups flour

2 eggs

¾ cup brown sugar

¼ cup white sugar

3 ½ cups oats

1 tsp baking soda

2 sticks butter

1 package instant vanilla pudding

Mix. Make into small golf ball sized chunks; bake 7 minutes at 350°.