

## Pueblo and PACOG ADA Meeting Minutes

### How Has COVID 19 Affected the ADA Community?

Date: June 4, 2020

Time: 1-3

#### I. Call to order

- II. **Present:** Heather Norton, co-chair; Sharon Campbell, Co-chair; Kristen Castor, Secretary; Ron Sasaoka EOC; Charles Bradley, EOC; Patty ? EOC; Sam Vigil, ADA Coordinator,;Dale Buterbaugh, member, Shannah Farmer, United Way, Tara Marrow, SRDA; Susan Lindeman, Center Toward Self Reliance,;Sonia Baker, guest,;Mary Rivera, guest; Stephanie Williams, member: Ben Valdez, Pueblo Transit; Rod Slyhoff, Chamber of Commerce; Laura Solano, City Manager

#### III. Minutes were approved as presented

#### IV. City Services

- a) State of the city: Laura Solano

The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the city is March 20, 2020 and all events have been postponed. The mayor is presenting Face Book Live updates every Friday morning at 10:00 with updates about how our hospitals are doing, what is open and what is closed, instructions for using masks, and other protective measures. The mayor is working with the state to get waivers to open activities, mostly things where distancing is possible. He is now opening up a two-part Zoom meeting which is streamed. One half is Pueblo Shares, a joint marketing agreement with the county highlighting what the city and county have to offer. The other half is city staff talking about variances that have been approved, including sidewalk cafes. At mid-April PEDCO authorized use of some of the .05 cent sales tax to help existing businesses survive. The first round has already been released. The city is also planning the 2021 budgets including money that goes to the non-profits that have been funded in the past

Dale Buterbaugh brought up how difficult it is for him to communicate because he cannot see people's lips and they won't lower their masks. Laura Solano said the Mayor and Governor have made some exemptions for people who really can't tolerate them because of breathing problems. Kristen Castor responded that the

Colorado Cross Disability Coalition does not support this fully and suggests working out alternatives. She recommended providing clear masks to the deaf community as they don't have the money for it. Heather Norton said that having a mask to hand over is opening up exposure. Shanna Farmer said even with paper there is a list of protections even in having paperwork delivered.

Ron Sasaoka shared a website: [www.http//The Clear Mask.com](http://TheClearMask.com). You can also make your own. He pointed out that asking someone to pull down the mask makes it difficult for store employees to comply. It also opens up the business for fines if the Health Department finds a violation. Face shields like the ones at McDonalds are a nice way to meet everyone's needs. Dale Buterbaugh said that was OK. The manager at Starbucks explained that employees would not be allowed to lower the masks.

Kristen Castor asked if United Way could help pay for a supply. Shanna Farmer asked if there was a cost estimate for this. Sharon Campbell said the face shields are reusable. She also suggested using "Go Ahead" or GA to manage the conversation by cuing when the speaker is finished.

b) City Services

i) Public Works: Sam Vigil

The curb ramp project on Outlook and Fortino is 90% finished. The upcoming project on Greenwood, which has ramps from 8<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> is going to council for approval on Jun 22. Resurfacing on Outlook, Fortino, Greenwood, and Eagleridge is going to council on June 9<sup>th</sup> and hopefully will get started in late July. There is a bridge project on June 9 to replace some railing on 8<sup>th</sup> street bridge and Bay State Avenue and La Crosse.

Heather Norton asked if Eva Cosyleon had reached Sam about trails and bike paths. Sam Vigil said she just started with the Planning Department and needs to follow up with her.

We need to re-schedule the presentation to City Council.

Kristen Castor asked if the CDBG funding is secure until December New application

ii) Bus Service and CitiLift: Ben Valdez

Chris Kringle is coming to MV transportation from Denver. Both services are reduced schedules, rear entrance only and no fares. Few companies are running full service. We look to continue this, running 55-65 %. CitiLift is now 65% and is being used on the fixed route if there are people waiting at a regular stop just for now.

Rod Slyhoff just wanted to comment about CitiLift services. He is very grateful to have the service. Most of his trips are medical. There is an issue with pick up times when the driver starts the 5 minute window. In one case, Rod Slyhoff said he was actually two

minutes early, in other cases the driver calls but still leaves when he is just coming down the elevator. He had to wait another hour.

Ben Valdez offered to talk with him about specifics and solutions.

#### **v. Business Community: Rod Slyhof**

Some businesses are just trying to open up again. There are frustrations that non-essential services are open before them and now they are struggling with mask compliance and distancing. We haven't seen the full effect of COVID but most are doing their best at complying. While unemployment is high a lot of employers are staffing back up and needing to hire new workers. Work Force Center should be open to help fill the need. Restaurants can be open for dine in with distancing and limited to 50 patrons. Curbside services and delivery are also still options. Hotels are having a rough time because travel is down. So many events, like Rocky Mountain National Street Rods, are cancelled and this hurts even more. That event usually bring in about 3 million dollars. All three Chambers of Commerce and some business leaders are combining resources to help local businesses. It's called BERT (Business Economy Recovery Team.) It provides resources and education, like building Facebook pages, to help businesses recruit staff and customers. Pueblo Shares involves assistance from 3 different vendors for promoting Pueblo. The Chamber office is also open to assist any business. We had an aggressive marketing plan for 2020 and we have adapted it to promote Pueblo. Out of state promotion has been cut. We still feel optimistic about the summer and fall.

Sharon Campbell suggested posting job openings on Facebook. Rod Slyhoff said there are a number of older businesses that do not have a Facebook account. The Chamber will help set up those pages. Chantal Woodyard said that places like Division of Vocational Rehabilitation have phone and email options, but the offices is still closed. Workforce is similar. Center Towards Self Reliance is also open and is now a vendor for DVR.

#### **vi. Non-profit Services: Shanna Farmer, Susan Lindeman, Tara Marrow**

The non-profit community has really stepped up, especially with food resources. They need more support than United Way can fulfil. The fund raiser brought in 240,000 and has dispersed 220,000. The first round and is focused on organizations providing direct services and the second round was for helping organizations that were struggling to stay alive. UW is looking at what fundraising looks like during the pandemic.

Kristen Castor asked what the needs are. Shanna Farmer said food is an ongoing need but it looks like evictions will be a much more serious need when the moratorium is lifted, especially when the stimulus checks run out. Kristen Castor recommended attending the Continuum of

Care and also Gail Rodosevich with Legal Services. Shanna Farmer said there is a resource guide on their website.

Kristen Castor described a pilot project that pairs nursing home residents and homeless people so that both have housing. Heather Norton suggested Corwin as overflow capacity and might be turned over. Ron Sasaoka said FEMA is paying for non-congregate settings. St. Mary's facility is under build and there are a number of issues that have to be resolved. It is a non-congregate setting for skilled care and serves the entire state. There is a test run at the State Fair Grounds. There are two other facilities in Denver and Grand Junction that will be doing the same things. Services are higher with x Rays etc. So far the need is not high enough to trigger this option. There really isn't a standard process set up. A patient in a congregate setting will be taken to the hospital but they have to be tested twice and be clear before they can go back.

Susan Lindeman said the Center is open by appointment with masks. Funding is secure up to the end of the year. They are delivering food while the grant with Triple A is available. Isolation is the next biggest need. A lot of clients have some access to the internet. The Center is looking buying notebooks for journaling. They are getting an alternative to Zoom where the Center can call them.

Tara Marrow wants to know how the alternative to Zoom works. She said the building is closed to the public and staff is being tested, etc. The highest need for transportation is for groceries, so SRDA got drivers. Homemakers have been doing grocery shopping. There are many isolated clients. SRDA is actively reaching out to the regular attendees they know need socializing. They have volunteers from the University. 211 and ADRC are still open to hook people up. Our 211 system is now covering an 11 county area. Needs are higher than normal and there is a lot of reporting. The themes are food, utilities, housing and health care. Beyond that it is stimulus checks and unemployment. Callers will get a referral.

SRDA has partnered with the Boys and Girls club because the exercise room is closed to seniors because of COVID. Boys and Girls Club will have to move when that program can be open again. They are following health guidelines.

## **vii. Health and Emergency Management: Ron Sasaoka, Patty**

Businesses that are open are still the critical ones. The Emergency Center is monitoring mask use but it is difficult to enforce because it is really the businesses that enforce. If everyone wears a mask, it is very difficult to contract the disease. Puebloemergency.info is a good place to stay current. If you have an underlying condition you should stay at home. You can spray down boxes and sacks if you feel the need. Wash your hands. Go to the doctor if you need to. If you have symptoms, call ahead and follow their guidance. Ron Sasaoka says the mask policy of everyone should be masking, if you can't, distance. If people have

breathing problems, COVID could be fatal. Anyone can get tested through June 30 Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 to 3:00 especially if you have symptoms. Wearing sun glasses will protect your face. Corwin is not quite ready to take on patients.

The CCDC guidance on masks is a really well written document that manages the intersection of legal and medical. You have to have a disability as defined by the ADA to begin with, not a medical diagnosis. It's one substantial life activity which is longer than 6 months. A broken ankle is not a significant and ongoing disability.

**VIII. Adjournment: 3:00**