

Pueblo ADA Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
January 5, 2012

Present: Sharon Campbell, chair; Ralph McPherson, member; John Madrid, member; Jean Benfield, vice-chair; Ron Burke, member; Kristen Castor, secretary; Terry Skinner, guest; George O'Brien, member; Sam Vigil, ADA Coordinator; Edward Vaught, guest; Jo Booms, interpreter; Chanell Turner, CitiLift; Eileen Dennis, guest; Bob Schmidt, Pueblo County; Brenda Broyles, Pueblo Transit; Larry Williams, member; Don Bruestle, member

Meeting convened at 1:06

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Minutes were accepted as presented.

Transit Report: Brenda Broyles

Transit is hiring 3 part time bus operators and has called on WorkForce and will soon post in the paper. Operators are now required to have a physical because there is so much physical activity inside the bus, including tying down wheelchairs. There is an occupational therapist and a physical therapist through Centura Health working with Pueblo Transit on the physical examination. They have also borrowed practices from other transit systems. Questions include driver responsibilities for evacuation in case of emergency.

There was an increase in ridership of 11% this year, which increases federal funding. The budget for federal funding of public transit has not suffered Congressional budget cuts. The limitation is that most grants require matching funds and Pueblo can't afford more local contributions.

The Mall and Highland routes still have 30 minute headways during peak hours. The County has agreed to continue funding the Redcreek Springs Route for 5 years at an increased level.

CitiLift: Chanell Turner

The RFP for paratransit services is out and Chanell is in the midst of negotiating. George and Kristen shared some difficulties they have experienced using CitiLift, such as poor scheduling and confused drivers.

Accessible Taxis

Kristen brought up a court decision requiring New York to provide a reasonable number of accessible taxis in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Brenda said she really doesn't have the time to investigate this.

Jean volunteered Kristen and Jo to work on a committee to move forward with the accessible taxi issue. Kristen will forward the information Eileen sent about the existing Ambocab service.

Greyhound

On Tuesday January 3, the Transit Center began staying open until 10:00 pm. Greyhound is paying for the security. This will continue to March, when the weather should improve and Transit hopes to have the money for a better shelter.

Trolley Service

Transit has the money for the trolleys, but not the operating budget. This requires a Resolution from city council. The money can be parked up to the end of 2013. Transit has the specs, so everything is ready to go at short notice.

Public Works: Sam Vigil

The weather has suspended many projects, but curb ramps are still going in. Phase I and Phase II of the city wide project and the Broadway and Abriendo project should continue. There are storm sewer issues that will close Broadway soon from Broadway to the alley. There will be some new pedestrian harbors near the library as well. Don noted that the light at Broadway and Abriendo is not long enough. The Bessemer Area Neighborhood Development (BAND) project is starting. The East Side project is complete.

Ralph said that construction caution signs were in the ramp at Abriendo for three days over the holidays. Sam said this should be monitored regularly and corrected.

Membership and Committee Support

The City Manager has not yet approved our requests, but it is in process. Staff support needs Earl's approval.

County Access: Bob Schmidt

There will be a new engineer on staff who may take on the responsibility for this committee with an action plan to address access to all county buildings open to the public. There are individual plans for all county buildings now.

The Judicial Building was approved and will probably break ground in the next few weeks. It follows 2010 standards for ADA access and includes widths for larger wheelchairs. Larry asked if there would be a parking issue. There will be a parking lot and around the entire building. All five corners will be modified, especially where there are signals and ramps. There will not be a signal at 4th and West, but there will be ramps.

There is a preliminary plan for the Emergency Operations Center. Groundbreaking will be after March, so it MUST meet 2010 standards. There will be some diagonal parking on Main Street and perhaps Court.

County Courthouse

Eileen said the County Clerk is promising clerk's office access right at the entrance to the building in the basement. There is now an extra clerk position approved to man it.

ADA Training

Sam and Bob are waiting for a training budget and interpreters before scheduling a training.

In order to have an impact on budget decisions, ADA Committee members need to maintain a presence at county meetings beginning in June. There is public comment allowed at the end of every Tuesday meeting, which begins at 9:00 am.

Sheriff's Office

Larry cannot get into the Sheriff's office. He was told there is a back entrance, but the alley is dangerous to access and there is no signage about such an entrance. The new engineer will look at this.

Goals for the New Year

Accessible taxi: George and John
Hotels: Sharon, Don and Jeannie, Larry

Elections

There is no competition for the positions of vice chair or secretary, Latisha Bunch having resigned. Jean and Kristen will continue serving in those posts.

Don withdrew from the slate for chair. George and Ralph agreed to serve as co-chairs and the committee approved the decision.

Kristen will double check the work session dates, which are the 3rd Thursday of the month at SRDA. The room assignment may change if there is a group within SRDA that wants to use the conference room. The purpose of this meeting is to develop the agenda and work on committees.

Other Business

Emergency Preparation

George said the Emergency Operations Plan is out of compliance because it obligates agencies to do what the city is now responsible for. The new director of Homeland Security, Craig Fugate, has directed that special needs communities must be involved in training exercises and there are other agencies that should be openly involved. City employees who have emergency response duties need family plans, so that they are better able to fulfill their duties.

Eileen said none of the basic personal emergency preparation plans include special needs and she recommended contacting Jody Carillo at the Health Department about this.

Handicapped Parking Patrol

Charlie Hicks has recovered from health conditions that forced him to drop out of the patrol and wants to oversee the volunteer patrol again if he can get hand controls for the patrol car. Kristen thinks Knights of Columbus probably funded the first one.

Employment Bias

Terry has heard that it is illegal to require employers to ask for a high school diploma because it discriminates against people with disabilities who may be unable to obtain one. Sharon Campbell clarified that this is only if the job doesn't require it. The applicant must be able to do the job. If it's unskilled, there's no need for a high school diploma.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10