

Pueblo ADA Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
February 2, 2012

Present: George O'Brien, co-chair; Sharon Campbell, member; Jo Booms, interpreter; John Madrid, member; Edward Vaught, member; Sam Vigil, ADA Coordinator; Kip Morphew, Facilities Manager; Don Bruestle, member; Luis Velez, Chief of Police; Terry Skinner, guest; Larry Williams, member; Eileen Dennis, guest; Bob Schmidt, Pueblo County ADA Coordinator; Jean Benfield, vice chair; Kristen Castor, secretary; Ralph McPherson, co-chair

The meeting was called to order at 1:08.

Sharon Campbell moved and John Madrid seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Guest Speakers: Chief Velez

The Pueblo Police Department (PPD) is creating one new division for all the volunteer programs to include the Volunteer Handicapped Parking Patrol, the chaplains, cadets and other volunteer groups headed up by Captain Michael Bennett. At the present, the Chief wants to recruit 300 volunteers for all kinds of support positions. All volunteers will need to be vetted and then assigned as their skills suggest. This effort will be year round, but will not start until probably mid-year.

Kristen Castor asked about archiving previous minutes for the Parking Patrol. The Chief wants to establish a resource center where this kind of thing could be stored.

Ron Burke found Charlie Hick's number and Kristen Castor will call him to see if he is interested in heading up the parking patrol.

John Madrid asked if there would be a specific call for the Handicapped Parking Patrol. The Chief said it would be for everything, but the tasks would be listed.

Larry Williams wants the parking ordinance re-written so that the parking patrol can ticket people who park in spaces even when there are no signs. Don Bruestle suggested we get support for more signs and perhaps there could be a grant for replacing them.

The chief will talk to Judge Alexander about ticketing in marked handicapped spaces because he feels visible markings should be sufficient, especially since signs get stolen.

George O'Brien asked about communication with the deaf community. The Chief said the PPD has created laminated decals that can be stowed under the visor to be passed out at Deaf Gathering next Thursday. Laura Whittrup is spearheading this project. Sharon Campbell suggested also making it available to audiologists. Don Bruestle suggested an ID card, but Kristen Castor cautioned that the deaf community usually opposes anything that would easily identify them as deaf.

Kristen Castor asked how the ADA Coordinator would delegate the city's responsibility for emergency response and the Chief referred to Karen Ashcraft at the Emergency Operations Center. Bob Schmidt explained that the Emergency Operations Plan is divided into 20 sections. The PPD and the sheriff have responsibility for the section on public safety. Sam Vigil said the call for action would come from the administration. If there is a natural disaster, Public Works takes the lead, but only the sheriff is listed in the plan.

Chief Velez will speak to Earl Wilkinson about emergency response. Sam Vigil said there has been discussion about this over the years, but there have never been any drills.

Public Works Update: Sam Vigil

The 1501 East Beech demolition is complete. The city-wide curb ramp project is 75% complete. The Lake Avenue Streetscape Phase I is in the punch list phase. The City Hall remodel is ongoing and the playground project is waiting for landscaping. Broadway and Abriendo is at 80% and work should move to the Abriendo side. Bessemer Area Neighborhood Development (BAND) is at 80%. Demolition at 502 Corona is suspended. The owner is making threats. The Motorsports Park is suspended because of the weather, but needs to be done by May. The City Park picnic area is ongoing. Shade structures in the Kiddie Ride area are a community service. The Reno area is 75% complete. Design projects at the airport, the Dillon Flyover, East 8th Street, 11th street are in process.

Terry Skinner had a question about Pueblo Blvd. south of Northern for curb ramps. Sam Vigil said the curb and gutter is the city's responsibility. She also asked about the on ramp to highway 50. Bob Schmidt said that will be done this spring. There will a streetscape at 1st and I-25.

Don Bruestle asked about replacing dead trees at downtown areas and Sam Vigil suggested a letter to the Downtown Business Association or Bill Zwick.

Ron Burke asked what the city can do when a business takes down their handicapped parking signs after they get occupancy. Don Bruestle suggested inviting someone from Regional Building about what can be done. There are apparently no teeth to any ordinances.

Pueblo County Report: Bob Schmidt

Bob Schmidt brought plans for the Emergency Operations Center and the Judicial Center. There is a new engineer, but she will be assigned elsewhere. He does not know when the county will hire a Facilities Manager. Don Bruestle asked if parking spaces were flush with the sidewalk at the Judicial Center. There is still time to work this out, both at the Judicial Center and at the new Emergency Operations Center, which will probably break ground in July.

ADA Training Update

Sam Vigil said both the city and county Public Works Departments are waiting until a new county Facilities Manager is appointed before moving ahead with any training.

Ambocab/Accessible Taxi

Kristen Castor said she had compiled a list of stakeholders and asked for someone to chair this committee. When no one volunteered, it was agreed that there was not enough interest to pursue this issue at this time.

Hotel Access

Ron Burke said that he would call June Akeo and see if she was still interested in chairing this committee. Ralph McPherson will consult, but feels he has a conflict of interest in chairing the effort.

Staff Support

Sam Vigil asked Kristen Castor to send him a list of tasks and an estimate of how much time would be involved.

Updated Contact Lists

Kristen Castor passed around two contact lists, one with all the names of people who receive minutes from the Pueblo ADA Advisory Committee and the other with the names of only the consumers for conducting business between meetings.

Bob Schmidt asked that Barbara Coombs' name be added to the list.

Sidewalk Policy: Sharon Campbell

Sharon Campbell referred to a newspaper article about a lawsuit in LA, which again supports the idea that sidewalks are a city issue. Perhaps the Committee should set up a task force to come up with a policy. Ed Vaught said if sidewalk is uneven by one inch, it is out of code. Sharon Campbell said the discussion is about who is responsible. Perhaps we could arrange a meeting with Chris Kaufman, city council president, or Judy Weaver, who chairs the work session. It starts with a request to be on the agenda.

Other Old Business

Sharon reminded the committee of our Thank You cards and asked who would thank businesses. She suggested that we should come with a list. Don Bruestle suggested we meet with owners when new businesses open up.

New Business

Emergency Operations Committee

George O'Brien said he is involved in a project with the Red Cross to make sure emergency shelters are accessible and wants to be able to survey shelters. Bob Schmidt said we should ask Karen Ashcraft to be members of the Emergency Operations Committee.

Eileen Dennis said both hospitals drill, but not everyone is at the table at the same time. She suggested we need to be with the Red Cross at this committee. She suggested getting a small group trained in what to look for even it is someone who portrays a person with a disability. She explained that school children often fulfill this role because they are not frail and can give first responders practice without the concern of perhaps injuring participants in the process of the drill.

Bob Schmidt said there are 13 EFTs and only 8 have been assigned. They are not being appointed. The meeting time and date might be on the county

website. City and county should assign and there should be dual responsibilities.

Sam Vigil said obviously part of the plan is to train people on their responsibilities. There has been work integrating radio systems.

Action Steps:

1. Personal plans: everyone
2. Read the EOP: Ed Vaught (chair), John Madrid, Jean Benfield
3. Attend meeting: George Obrien
4. Meeting times and dates: Kristen Castor

Jean Benfield added that she had trouble with EMTs not understanding her cerebral palsy. They became angry when she could not hold her arm still for an IV when she was being transported to the hospital. They were also not sympathetic to her communication difficulties.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10

The next meeting of the Pueblo ADA Advisory Committee is Thursday March 1st at the El Pueblo History Museum from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.