

Present: Kristen Castor, Secretary; Ralph McPherson, Co-chair; Kip Morphew, City of Pueblo; Terry Skinner, guest; Jean Benfield, Vice Chair; Sharon Campbell, member; George O'Brien, Co-chair; June Akeo, guest; Ron Burke, member; Sherry Slate, Design Engineer, Larry Williams, member; Bob Schmidt, Pueblo County, Barb Yaeger, guest, Vickie Weeks, member; Maxine Dyer, guest.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05.

Jean Benfield moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Sharon Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The agenda was amended to move zoo doors to New Business.

Public Works: Kip Morphew

Kip Morphew is standing in for Sam Vigil. He said he would look into the issue of access to the Zoo Administration Building and email Kristen Castor with the results.

Terry Skinner reported that on Pueblo Blvd and all along Lake Avenue and by Saint Mary Corwin the curb ramps dump into traffic. Kristen Castor explained that there have been several changes to ramp design since the ADA was passed. The corner design is older. There was a time when that was considered an easy way to get access to all corners. Then there was a decision to go back to the design where the ramp is at each side of the corner wherever possible. Sometimes drainage problems make engineers choose another design. They are not out of compliance. The older design was compliant when it was put in. Vickie Weeks added that it is difficult to know what direction to go when the ramps are at the corner.

Terry Skinner will give Kip Morphew a list of the intersections she has concerns about.

Larry Williams reminded everyone that the new standards go into effect March 1, 2012.

George O'Brien asked about access on Dillon Drive from Sam's to Walmart. The sidewalk down into Walmart is very steep and rutted to the point where

the street in is the only ingress. What is the recourse? This is not passable by anyone.

Kip Morphew will find out who has jurisdiction. Kristen Castor suggested calling in Pueblo Active Community Environment after the question of jurisdiction is settled, so that we have a broader coalition to work with.

County Updates: Bob Schmidt

Bob Schmidt introduced Sherry Slate. She will coordinate work at the Judicial Center, but there still is no Facilities Manager. The plan is to have a six year ADA compliance plan. It starts with the 2010 review and our discussions about priorities since Bob Schmidt started attending our meetings. The Facilities Director is Sean Tapia. He will be responsible for small changes, but this is still not as broad as a Facilities Manager. Remodeling is still under Bob Schmidt for the time being.

Work on the Judicial Building has begun. It will meet the 2010 standards. All of the wheelchair areas are now large enough to accommodate bariatric chairs.

The new Emergency Operations Center building has gone through the clearance for the flood plain and the first environmental review. There are more clearances before work can begin. It will have two bathrooms for about 100 people, as it does now, but they will be located where it is easier to get to them. Construction will probably start in August, pending various approvals.

Sidewalk Policy

Kristen Castor asked what needed to be done to encourage the city to develop a sidewalk replacement policy and plan. It was suggested that the issue needs to be kept before city council by attending regularly.

All members are encouraged to attend city council meetings and bring up the issue of sidewalk maintenance and replacement at the public input section.

Larry Williams said we should invite Randy Dipner to the next meeting along with PACE.

Sharon Campbell said the game changer is the most recent decision from Atlanta, which the Court refused to hear. This confirms the precedent that

cities are responsible and must have a plan that addresses repair and maintenance.

Emergency Operations Update:

Jean Benfield reported that the committee could not find anything of specific mention about special needs populations. Kristen Castor pointed out that the federal directive is to have an inclusive plan that incorporates all special needs and respects self- determination.

George O'Brien said there is a new spectrum available for WiFi and emergency radio communication that could address communication needs for both the deaf community and first responders.

Staff Support

Kristen Castor presented a request to the ADA Coordinator specifying that staff support is needed to maintain the email list for the full committee as well as the consumer only list and to send out timely reminders. Minutes should go out the week before the meeting with the agenda and there could be some follow up phone calling and appointment setting. This should not take more than three to four hours a month.

The membership pointed out that the minutes need to come out early, as soon after the meeting as possible, because there are action items listed that people need time to do.

The staff support request should be amended so that minutes come out directly after the meeting and the agenda comes out the week before the regular meeting.

Publicity

Kristen Castor noted that the ADA Committee letterhead needs to be revised with current contact information.

It was agreed that we should use the city and county public works address and phone numbers for letterhead and print labels to correct the brochure and business cards. We will do this at the work session on March 15th.

Ralph McPherson offered to display them at the museum and also suggested the library.

New Business

Emergency Preparation

George O'Brien presented his concerns about emergency preparation. At the most basic level, everyone has to have a personal preparation plan. He asked the following questions of the committee:

- Do any city or county employees have personal plan?
- Do you know what radio station to turn to for information?
- Do you know your local evaluation routes?
- Do we have a corps council?
- Have you updated your ER Kit?
- Do you have a road kit?
- Do you have a communication plan?
- Do you have a neighborhood plan?

Bob Schmidt said there are discussions about how to bring in volunteers. Public Works and Sheriff are the only ones with any plan for employees at all.

George O'Brien will invite first responders to next meeting to draw city/county wide attention to the need for all employees to have personal plans for emergency preparation and evacuation in order for them to be free to serve the public in the event of an emergency.

Other Issues:

Vickie Weeks introduced her friend, Maxine Dyer who will have surgery that will put her up 6th months. She needs Meals on Wheels and transport and has had difficulty getting either. Kristen Castor suggested that Total Long Term Care might meet those needs. SRDA doesn't have the money to keep adding people to Meals on Wheels and have dropped their sack lunch. CitiLift applications are available on the Internet and are also available through Brenda Broyles. CitiLift is more reliable at this point.

Vickie Weeks said she has dropped out of our meetings because she still has difficulty getting sighted guide to the door with CitiLift. Ron Burke impressed on her that it is important to keep complaining about this because we have already established that Pueblo has an Origin to Destination policy and it is her right to have sighted guide to the door of the building.

Vickie Weeks will call Brenda Broyles directly when drivers refuse to help her get to the door at her destination.

Jean Benfield said her mother has trouble getting a reservation from SRDA. There is an answering machine and no one calls back. Vickie Weeks said she has a friend with a 202 number and she simply gets no reply. George O'Brien recommended changing the number to a local number.

Kristen Castor and Vickie Weeks recommended calling George Chintala directly with concerns about SRDA transportation.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 2:45.

The next work session for the Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee is Thursday March 15 at SRDA from 1-3 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee Meeting is Thursday April 5 at the El Pueblo History Museum from 1-3 pm.