

Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
May 3, 2012

Present: George O'Brien, co-chair; Tina Armstrong, guest; John Madrid, member; Jean Benfield, vice chair; Jo Washburn, interpreter; Sherry Slate, County Engineer; Ralph McPherson, co-chair; Kip Morphey, ADA Coordinator; Sharon Campbell, member; Kristen Castor, secretary; Larry Williams, member.

The meeting was called to order at 1:09.

The April minutes were accepted as written unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Sidewalk Policy Update

George O'Brien explained that CSU Pueblo is working on building connections between classroom teaching and applied projects so that graduates have usable skills. Bob Keating identified a contact for this program as a resource for getting a sidewalk survey done. Shanna Farmer spoke with members at the April work session.

She explained that the grant funding for studies would be available in September, so we need to put together a specific proposal. Kip Morphey pointed out that this project needs to include funding sources and time lines. Sharon Campbell said it should start with a needs assessment, including better sidewalk design. There could be four different components: alternative approaches to repair and maintenance, better design, funding sources, communicating with the public about the benefits. Kip Morphey agreed that there should be a survey with an analysis and some solutions. It would provide excellent hands on training for prospective engineers and planners.

Kristen Castor will draft a letter to Shannon Farmer to find out what we need to do to bring our ideas to students and invite her to our next meeting to discuss what to do.

4th Street Redesign

There was a discussion of the outcome of proposals to redesign Fourth Street. Because it is a state highway, the state is responsible for replacing the signal lights, which means all the intersections have to be re-designed.

The city is looking at ways to improve access along 4th street improve the flow of traffic.

Pueblo Transit

Brenda Broyles was not present. Kristen Castor summarized the issues from last month. Pueblo Transit is over budget because of fuel costs and has to cut service. Brenda Broyles will present several options to city council on Monday May 7th. We can maintain a presence and also speak at public input during the following regular council meeting in support of raising fares.

Sharon Campbell moved that the Committee support a modest fare increase as part of any proposal at Monday night's meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

County Update: Sherry Slate

Sherry Slate didn't get any feedback on the list of county buildings she handed out last meeting.

The county is looking at replacing sidewalk at facilities where there are tripping hazards which will improve ramping and parking.

Terry Skinner said that at the NE corner of the County Courthouse where the handicapped parking is, there is a huge lip of asphalt. Next year, Main and 11th will be re-engineered to reduce the crown in the street. The parking along 10th will be removed and moved around the corner to new diagonal parking along Main. Terry said striping needs to have sand or roughness worked into it because the paint is a slip hazard when it gets wet.

Larry Williams asked about the current Sheriff's office, which is not accessible. Sherry Slate said it will be in the budget next year. There is a back entrance on the right hand side, but even that isn't easy to use.

The current Judicial Building where the sheriff's office is now located, will be maintained as a county building for some purpose. Kristen Castor pointed out that the retrofitted handicapped bathroom is difficult to use and the others have 504 stalls that are even more difficult, so access to bathrooms will have to be addressed.

Chairperson's Report

George O'Brien wants to encourage people to prepare for emergencies. One place to start is to train city employees on using fire extinguishers. We

could then involve the deaf community. Kip Morphew pointed out that the new fire station has a conference room that could be used for this along with some publicity in the Chieftain. Sharon Campbell said her conclusion is that the fire extinguisher is best used to get out of the building, rather than put oneself at risk trying to extinguish the fire.

George O'Brien will work with Woody Perceval from the Fire Department to develop a brief community announcement clip on using fire extinguishers.

NEW BUSINESS

Kristen Castor pointed out that the Annual Report is due in June. She asked Kip Morphew to find a couple of dates and will have a draft for our next work session.

Sharon Campbell suggested putting community emergency exercises on the agenda so that planners use interested citizens as well as high school students.

Kristen Castor asked Kip Morphew if there was any progress on remodeling the City Park Bathhouse. He said there were no plans. There are, however, efforts to bring the pools into compliance with the new guidelines. Perhaps it is time to invite Creighton Wright, or probably Mike Sexton, to our next meeting.

Terry Skinner added that the two large picnic gazebos at Pueblo Mountain Park were not accessible. That issue needs to be referred to Dave Van Mannen, director of the program there.

Kristen Castor added that June was the deadline Chief Velez had set for establishing a volunteer department and perhaps we should ask for an update on this and relations with the deaf community.

The two co-chairs will work on a schedule for addressing all of the issues we have raised this month as there will likely not be room on the agenda next month for everything.

The meeting adjourned at 2:48.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee is Thursday June 7, 2012 at El Pueblo History Museum at 301 North Union from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

The next regularly scheduled work session is Thursday May 21, 2012 at SRDA at 230 North Union from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Anyone needing disability accommodation should contact Earl Wilkinson at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at 553-2295.