

Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
June 7, 2012

Present: Kristen Castor, Secretary; June Akeo, member; Jean Benfield, Vice Chair; Barb Yaeger, guest; Jo Washburn, interpreter; John Madrid, member; Sharon Campbell, member; Ron Burke, member; Kip Morphew, Pueblo Facilities Manager; Sherry Slate, Pueblo County; Ralph McPherson, Co-Chair; Shanna Farmer, Speaker; George O'Brien, co-chair; Don Bruestle, member, Bob Schmidt, County ADA Coordinator; Brenda Broyles, Pueblo Transit

The meeting was called to order at 1:04.

Approval of May Minutes

The roster did not reflect that John Madrid and Ron Burke were both present on May 3. Otherwise, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Sidewalk Policy Update: Shanna Farmer

Shanna Farmer is the Community-Based Graduate Research Coordinator for the Regional Access to Graduate Education (RAGE) program at Colorado State University at Pueblo. She is responsible for creating projects to allow graduates to improve their skills and enhance the community they currently live in as well.

The next step to our sidewalk policy request is to put together a one page description to give to a professor who may be interested. It needs to include what kind of information or time frame we want? Our letter of invitation to Shanna stated sidewalk survey, analysis and funding options.

George offered that there is a form from the AARP for their members to identify sidewalks their members have problems with. Kip recommended breaking things down to residential or commercial areas. Ralph offered that tours he is organizing are bringing people into Pueblo and they need to get around. Sharon felt the Mall area was important also.

Ralph felt the Engineering Department might be the best fit. Sharon felt Phase II might be Public Administration. There could also be a supervisory role. The residential piece would be a third phase with administration with service clubs. Gloria Valdez coordinates volunteers from the city and the Pueblo Police Department (PPD) is developing a large volunteer project which could be additional resources for manpower.

Kip says this again is too big to achieve at once. The project should be limited to about five blocks. The professor can choose the size of the project based on what is reasonable to achieve. The target area might be the Main Street business area because it includes government buildings, which are our first priority. Ron thought parks might be another priority. This could involve an innovative design for cheaper, better curb ramps. The Entertainment District would be another area.

Shanna warned that there is no guarantee that anyone will be interested in any of our projects and it could take two semesters to find a good fit. There is one professor that works in teams and this might address our needs better.

Kristen will write a paragraph summarizing each idea and send them by Kip for approval before sending them on to Shanna.

Pueblo Transit Update: Brenda Broyles

The presentation on service reduction has been postponed until July 2 at the work-session starting at 5:30. The proposals will be presented along with the projected savings each will achieve. Public comment is not possible until the regular council meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

After a closer look at the budget there were three to four vacancies for bus drivers and that caused serious expenditures in overtime pay. There is also a problem with fuel. The budget projected \$148,000 a route and now that line item is already used up. Transit has been paying \$3.42 per gallon recently and may be able to revise that figure downward again. Regardless of future price reductions, we are \$310,000 in the hole for fuel and \$115,000 in overtime. CitiLift will be reduced along with fixed route service. Saturday service could be eliminated. Another alternative is for Council to just fund transit from reserve funds. This could impact other departments. Transit suggested ending Kids Ride Free for the summer, but Council said to go ahead and the program runs from June first until August 31.

June 21 is Dump the Pump day and next week there will be a press release about it. There will be a customer service representative available and a number of activities planned.

Chanell has an audit and is not able to attend this meeting, but there are no substantial changes in the CitiLift Report.

Don added that the Library District is asking the city to buy the land for a new library. This would cost \$200,000. It's a good offer, but it's bad timing

and figures into the mix of what Council must consider. Sharon added to Shanna that this means there is no immediate funding available for anything we request of her program.

Meanwhile, ridership has increased 98 to 99 percent on 5 routes and the city has no match to pull down federal funding that is available. Any reduction in service also reduces ridership and the federal funding that might help support the system.

George asked how best the Committee might support Transit, noting that we do support a modest fare increase as part of any proposal. Brenda simply suggested that we be present at the work-session on July 2.

June Akeo said she cannot get up the ramp at the temporary City Council site. Kristen suggested she call Earl Wilkinson at 553-2295 at least 48 hours in advance (the Thursday before) and ask for assistance.

County Update: Sherry Slate and Bob Schmidt

Main Street

The county re-stripped Main Street and kept the handicapped parking on 11th. There is a proposed re-design of Main Street, but it isn't approved yet.

Judicial Center

Bob says there will be a Family Bathroom in the new Justice Center and there may be room for an adult changing station with a curtain. The plans he passed around show the changes to the handicapped parking spaces. There is also a map on the other side of the page.

Kristen will get the plans to Terry Skinner for review.

Bob said the current Judicial Building might be converted to Social Services and Probation. Completion of Judicial Center is slated for March 14, 2014, but occupancy will take several more months.

There have been articles critical of the groundwater table level discovered at the construction site. The building is erected on piles that reach to bedrock because groundwater is two feet below the basement floor. They are looking at the mean water and the water table. This is groundwater and it is the same level for all the buildings downtown, including the Thatcher Building and the Board of Waterworks. This kind of planning goes to

designing any building and engineers are now considering premium water lining for the Judicial Center.

County Facilities List

George asked if there was anything else the Committee could do to work with the county. Kristen reminded the Committee that Sherry had passed out a list of facilities to review for priority intervention.

Sherry says that the Facilities Department has already looked at the list of county buildings and has made changes. She will send out an updated list.
--

Access to Services at the County Courthouse

Kristen noted that the Secretary of State had visited the County Courthouse before the last election cycle and insisted that all election services be available to people with disabilities on the ground floor. This would presumably include any service citizens need access to. Ralph says the Courthouse facility should be open this week and he will find out when he goes for more business soon. Bob says the facility is ready because he gave the orders for the construction of the office, but County Clerk doesn't have the personnel. It should be operational. There may be services the Count Clerk doesn't control.

Pueblo West

Bob also noted there are now curb ramps in Pueblo West that do not lead to any sidewalk as part of the McCulloch Trails Project. Pedestrian access is achieved by trails and even curb and gutter is discouraged.

Other Business

Don has been working with Bill Zwick on Memorial Hall and City Hall, and there have been changes to the designs the Committee saw and approved. The only entrances that will be accessible are on the side of the building where the parking lot is, but not one the Grand Avenue side because of the elevation.

Chair Report

Our next meeting will be on July 19th here at the El Pueblo History Museum from 1:00 to 3:00. We will hear from the PPD, Dispatch and the Fire Department.

Ralph says tourism will increase. He brought in the Rocky Mountain Tour Guide Association during the Wild West Fest and they now know there is something south of Denver. The Museum will be a tourism center. Sharon said the Tennis Courts by Pueblo Community College (PCC) are accessible, so is the Athletic Center at the University and so is the Ice Arena, all of which could be marketed to attract wheelchair and Special Olympic sports events.

Ralph pointed out some safety features at the HARP. The main staircase has no side rail and he nearly walked off the edge at night. There is also no barrier to the water along any walkway. The Committee noted HARP has refused to put one in before, but it is clearly easy for someone who is preoccupied to simply fall off the sidewalk.

New Business

Kristen asked for feedback on the draft Annual Report and will send it out again with the suggested changes and polish the format and punctuation.

Kip said he would check on presentation dates.

There being no further business, Jean moved and June seconded that the meeting adjourn at 2:44.

Our next regular meeting will be July 19th at El Pueblo History Museum from 1:00 to 3:00.

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING ON JULY 5 DUE TO THE HOLIDAY.