

Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Meeting

Present: Alexis (Lexi) Romero, Don Bruestle, Duane Nava (Chamber of Commerce), Terri Lallish (Chamber of Commerce), Justin Hiniker, Susan Lindeman, Chris Krengel, Kent Tompkins, Charles Roy, Todd Berisford, Mary Agnes Leonard, Bob Long, Deborah MacIlroy, Sharon Campbell, Laura Leyba.
Zoom: Kelly Grisham , Tiffany Garcia, Jennifer Thornton

Minutes of the November 2, 2023 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 PM Minutes were read and accepted as amended to substitute “detention facility” for “jail.”

City Report from Chuck and Todd detailed the many improvements on curb cuts and paving. Because the weather is getting colder the asphalt paving season is about over, but the concrete curb cut and sidewalk work will continue despite the weather. In response to an anonymous complaint about the sidewalk being blocked during work on curb cuts, that part of the sidewalk is supposed to be blocked off for the safety of pedestrians.

Transportation Report

Chris Krengle reported that Citilift has two new buses in the pipeline and enough drivers, barely. Kent reported that it is easier for Pueblo Transit to hire since there is a bigger pool of potential drivers, such as former school bus drivers. There are issues with benefits. There will be some changes to the Indiana and Orman bus stop, moving it forward and putting in a bench. Don raised the point that we need more benches, and they should budget for them for the future. This can be suggested as one way to spend the million-dollar grant. **Don** can call 719-553-2525 to suggest it.

Tura, Elizabeth and Deborah will be doing training for drivers, which is much appreciated.

How to handle an issue with an unhoused woman using a walker who keeps soiling bus seats was discussed. Mary suggested that the woman involved be asked for her own solutions to her issue. Treat her as an adult.

Duane Nava and Terri Kallish came to hear our report on the Chile and Frijoles Festival. One issue encountered was one person needing a bigger accessible Portajohn for people with larger wheelchairs. Duane reported that to even get an accessible one required doing business with a Colorado Springs company since no Pueblo suppliers had any. Elizabeth suggested food vendors offering signs indicating that they could accommodate food allergies. Duane and Terri are looking forward to working more with the Committee, particularly in light of the upcoming major street work on Union and Main Street, which is going to impact the Festival significantly next year. The Committee needs to work again on suggestions for vendors, particularly the part about food sensitivity signs.

Business Community Outreach Project

We want to communicate more with the business community, and it was suggested that we take our new logo (under development) and offer some sort of endorsement of businesses that try to be

accessible. Sharon suggested the phrase “disability friendly” would work without the potential legal weight endorsement or approval. We brainstormed ways to reach the business community, including presentation to all 3 of the Chambers of Commerce (Greater, Latino and Pueblo West). **Mary Leonard, Justin and Tiffany** volunteered to be on that sub-committee. We will hear from them next month.

County detention Center project At the Work Session next week, we will review the exterior plans, but we have concerns about accommodation of disabled inmates. How to approach that with the County facility needs to be determined. Laura worked for detention centers for 25 years and is confident that this isn't an issue; they have experts on the ADA. The rest of the Committee isn't so confident.

Tiffany said that she has worked with the Supermax facility, training on Vocational Rehabilitation 101, telling employees about the many resources for disability accommodations and other services post-release.

Jennifer volunteered to be the treasurer for the Committee after several others gave reasons why they would not be qualified.

Getting the Committee an **official e-mail address** from the City is underway.

Complete Streets Program; This is a PACOG initiative put together to define a complete street, which is not just the paved part. It includes the sidewalks, vegetation, lighting, traffic signs and lights, etc. They meet quarterly at the Emergency Command Center. The next meeting is Tuesday, 12/12/23 from 9:30 to 11:30 at the Rawlings Library. We would like to have Committee representation, which is Laura and Don. Now they are working on a narrative, essentially a mission statement. There is a short open comment section of the meeting. We will confirm with Eva Cosleyon if it is open to others. This is not the kind of group where people just casually attend meetings. There needs to be ongoing commitment.

Brief discussion of the bathrooms at the Dutch Clark Stadium. The news that there will be adult changing tables in the accessible bathrooms was much appreciated.

The meeting adjourned after 3 PM.

The next Work Session on November 9 will be looking over the plans and having new member Justin Hiniker intr

roduce himself. It is exciting to have participation from the University on our committee.