

ADA Committee Minutes 5-2-24 DRAFT

**Present:** Sharon Campbell, member; Tura Cowan, Co-Chair; Rita Gonzales, member; Kristi Rogue, Pueblo City-County Library; Chris Kregel, Paratransit; Chuck Roy, Public Works; Todd Berisford, Kent Tompkin, Transit; Heather Norton, guest; Don Bruestle, member; Ronald Sasoka, Public Health; Joshua Johnson, Emergency Management

**Minutes** from April were approved as written

There were no guest speakers.

**City Report: Chuck Roy and Todd Berisford.** One individual requested sidewalk repairs at two locations. The sidewalks have been disturbed by tree roots. After investigation, the owners were sent letters to fix the sidewalks.

To clarify the process of handling reports of defective sidewalks, etc., when a complaint is made on the website, it is investigated and followed up. However, due to the way the website is set up, the complaint must be marked “closed” quickly. This does not mean that the follow-up process is stopped, however.

The City does not have a comprehensive sidewalk repair plan, and is not required to under the Consent Decree. According to the City Charter, property owners are responsible for sidewalk repairs and replacement.

The usual listing of street projects completed, underway and planned followed. There will be substantial disruption of usual traffic routes throughout the summer and fall.

Besides the streets, in June the construction of Fire Stations 11 and 8 will begin, and the HARP extension.

**County Report:** Weston Burrer. The door opener to the East side of the County Courthouse should arrive next week and be installed. Many of the major County offices will be relocating to the old Wells Fargo building this year. There are plans to eventually put in a new, large elevator in the County Courthouse. It will facilitate furniture delivery as well as be accessible for mobility-impaired visitors and employees. They are seeking Congressional funding to finance these major projects, including the new elevator at the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center.

**Transit Report:** The planned new routes that will permit passengers to transfer between north-bound and south-bound routes without having to go back to the Transit Center is postponed to the first week in June. The Solar Lights projects after public input now has 40 sites, and it appears that the budget will allow for all of them to be installed. There won't be any solar lights in the Salt Creek area because there is no good place to put them. A privately-owned van pool to the Airport area is in the final stages of being planned for employees and prospective employees, but it will not be wheelchair-accessible.

**Citilift Report:** Chris Kregle. 4300 trips were made last month, showing the tremendous demand challenging the department. They need one more driver. The electric bus has only a

124 mile range. Don said we need publicity about the challenges to the bus systems, which are quality-of-life issues.

**Emergency Management:** Joshua Johnson. We had two major fires last week, which fortunately did not injure anyone seriously beyond minor injuries to a few firefighters. 41 separate agencies from around the state responded. CCF&I lost 10 very old wooden buildings which also had wooden shingles. The question of health risks to the public from the resulting smoke was checked out by the EPA, and as long as they were not standing in the smoke there was none. The fires were not arson.

There were notification issues raised by citizens. Unfortunately, the vast majority of them had not signed up for reverse 911 notifications via the City and County websites. If they sign up they will be notified of future emergencies. Where people needed to be told to evacuate another set-up is an Amber alert-like system that uses cell towers. These go to all cell phones and runs for the duration set.

**Health Department:** Ron Sasota. The current levels of COVID and monkey pox are very low. They are working on outreach for a Health Improvement Plan. They got a grant to provide Narcan free of charge. There is a training program on how to use it available.

**Old Business:** Rita suggested that we need a walk/roll audit of the old Seaton where there are a number of services, including day care and a food bank. It is not very accessible and has no accessible bathrooms. They are funded by the City, but there is no requirement for access when they give funding for activities.

BNSF will be contacted about the difficulty crossing the railroad tracks on the way to the Center Toward Self Reliance to see if something can be done to make that safe for wheelchair users.

A walk/roll audit of the fire station on Bonforte will be scheduled. Tura has a contact there.

**New Business:** Tura did a walk/roll audit of the Rawlings Library, and they are excited to help. They will do a presentation at the October Committee meeting. The focus was on emergency preparedness. Several issues were not emergency-related, and they were discussed. Tura requested to lower the emergency exit signs, and put Braille on them. The addition of an adult changing table would be feasible in one bathroom. There no possibility of more disabled parking spots at Rawlings, but a “drop off” sign could be put at the round drive in front of the entrance. It was requested that additional parking be included in the renovations at the Barkman and Lucero libraries.

The meeting adjourned about 3:10.