

## **Pueblo/PACOG ADA Advisory Community Minutes**

May 1, 2025

**Present:** Sharon Campbell, chair; Rita Gonzales, member; Kristi Roque, Library; Chris Harrner, Pueblo Emergency Manager; Chuck Roy, Pueblo ADA Coordinator; Kent Thompkins, Pueblo Transit; Lisa Pate, Pueblo City Assistant ADA Coordinator, Justin Hiniker, Joe Treanor, member; Don Bruestle, member; Zoom: Eva Coslyeone, Lexi Stewart, Anna Jones, member; Laura Leyba, past Chair; Olivia Leyva, Health Department

There were no public comments or guest speaker.

### **City Report:**

**Legal housekeeping:** Chuck explained that the City never got around to officially establishing our Committee, and because of that the Council could not accept our Bylaws changes. However, until this mess is cleaned up with the assistance of the City Attorney, we should just use our revision. Also, in 1992 Pueblo wrote an ADA Transition Plan, which has not been updated since then. Chuck is working on that.

They are paving 6<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> streets, and from Bonforte to Monument as part of the Safe Route to School grant, which goes to El Centro. They have \$350,000 from CBDG for curb ramps this year. In Belmont they have to removed 34 big trees which have destroyed the sidewalk, and they will pave from April to August.

There haven't been requests from citizens for curb cuts, and we brainstormed some ideas to publicize the program. Since we don't actually have a local paper any more. Flyers on the buses, recycling places and food pantries were suggested. Pueblo Transit will work with the City on flyers. Don mentioned that Minneapolis, Minnesota had District Councils that shared information with the residents. We don't have those. There are some similar avenues here, such as HOAs, and neighborhood associations.

Chuck met with the Chamber of Commerce about planning the Chilifest regarding the accessibility complaints revealed by Tura and Rita about the cords crisscrossing the streets. They are looking at much wider cord covers go over the power cords that will make it easier and possible to go over them. Chuck will brief the planning committee and talk about the possibility of opening City Hall for bathrooms if possible. Security is a major concern with that. The Pueblo URA is committed to accessibility and we need to make sure that it is Achieved.

In Memorial Hall, handicapped seating is taken up with sound and lighting equipment. Chuck will check with the contractor who handles that and booking for both Memorial all and the convention Center to ensure that the commitment to accessible seating is

honored. He wants the Committee to do a walk-through in Memorial Hall. Sharon will need to call Rita, who does not spend much time on e-mail. The Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority is adamant about disability access.

A discussion about the raising of the Union Avenue Bridge covered the fact that they do not have the remaining 9 -10 million dollars needed.

Emergency Management and health department: due to a reduction in funding, Ron Sas?? Will no longer work there. Olivia Leyva will replace him on the Committee. Rita observed that some of the food banks are not accessible, so Olivia needs to touch base with the food inspection teams of the Health Department and make sure that they are accessible as well as clean.

The tour Chris Horner gave us of the Emergency Management Center was outstanding and the Committee members who went are very impressed with our unsung heroes who work there during emergencies. There still is a Local Emergency Planning Committee, meeting quarterly. The next meeting will be in August and Chris will make sure that Shaon is on the mailing list.

As part of emergency management, the police have new BRIC drones that will fly to the scene very early and give officers early information before they even get there. They can carry first aid and defibrillators before the officers get there. They are worn in conjunction with the shot spotter program. One will be based at the Pueblo Municipal Justice Center and two at different fire stations. Among other things, they can collect evidence before the Police Department officers get there.

The need for police and fire department disability training was addressed. Anna will work on that training planning committee, along with Rita and Sharon and anyone else volunteering. We can also work on a PowerPoint. We can let it be distributed to those who do not make it to the training classes.

Visitability was visited again; PURA, Habitat for Humanity classes are coming up; The Pueblo Homebuilders Association will meet with us on June 19 at 8:15 AM. Chrissy Sais is the chairperson. We have 20-minutes, including questions. We need a PowerPoint for that; Lexi and Anna offered to work on it with Sharon. We need to schedule a meeting for that.

**Transit:** There was no Citilift report since Kris Krengle is out of the office this summer. Due to some confusion about the grant terms, they didn't get the grant for free fare for all, but they still have it for students and veterans. During the free ride periods, they get a bump of about 30% increase in ridership, but only during the free period. Rides are \$1.25/adult and 60 cents for 60 and over and \$1 for college students. The students are taking 3000-4000 rides a month, mostly in the afternoons.

The van pools to the industrial park are underway, but they are run by a private company rather than as a part of Transit. Ben ?? is overseeing it. This lets the companies with facilities up there get their employees and prospective employees to work.

The solar lighting for the bus stops has been ordered and will be installed. They are adding a new route.

Rita discussed the fact that the Cripple Creek buses don't have parking space any more. She suggested a solution that would work.

Lexi: Housing. 2025-2030 they plan housing to get 2 grants, a Housing and Urban Development Home Grant, and Community Development Block Grants. She hopes to finish the applications in June.

CDBG has money for one-year grants and the City Administration is looking for sidewalk and infrastructure ideas from the citizens. There is a website where people can apply. It is called the Neighborhood Improvement Application, and there is a deadline of May 30. Those interested should go to the City of Pueblo website and over to CDBG applications. This is money in addition to the \$350,000 that Chuck gets.

**Transportation/Transportation Advisory Commission:** The \$700,000 CDOT grant for multi mobile mitigation (MMOS) grant was canceled by the state. It had no match requirements. And we can't use that money for other funding.

**Miscellaneous old business:** the Parks and Recreation phase 3 of the Northern Avenue sidewalks from Cambridge to Mesa is underway. The Wheel the World organization does art; the coordinator is the Chamber of Commerce.

Walk/Roll audits will not be requested much because of the cancellation of the MMOS grant. We can certainly originate them as we see the need.

The Dutch Clark Stadium pods still have caution tape around them, so they are not open yet.

Weston Burrer was asked about the new motor vehicle office by the library that they are building in Pueblo West. They are not yet contracting on that work, but he is updating the rest rooms to ensure that they are accessible.

Rita will get back to us on the State Fair being willing to work with us on accessibility.

Don asked where the scheduling of City Council Annual Report to their Work Session stands. There had been no response to the latest request. (Note: the next day we were

scheduled for Tuesday, May 27. It was on a Tuesday night because the regular Monday meeting was Memorial Day. An e-mail will be sent out to the membership.)

**New Business:** A measure was passed to relocate our meetings to the Rawlings library.

Kristi said that the Rawlings library is bus accessible, but the rest of the year meeting room availability is piecemeal. She is going to look at the schedule and get back to Sharon.

(Note: in a later conversation with Tura, she said that she had already booked us for the rest of 2025.) Booking work sessions should be easy as we only need much smaller rooms.

Other options include the Community Room at the Police Department. Laura pointed out that we need to update that on the City Website ADA page.