

## **DRAFT Minutes of the October 2, 2024 meeting of the Pueblo ADA Advisory Commission**

**Present:** Sharon Campbell, Chair; Tura Cowan, member; Chuck Roy, City ADA Coordinator; Lisa Pate, assistant ADA Coordinator; Joe Treanor, member; Mary Leonart, member; Guy Chabot, member; Kate Longworthy, guest, Kristi Roque, Library; Sunny Lyon, guest; Alexis Romero Stewart, ??? Chris Kregel, Citi Lift; Donald L Bruestle, member; Rita Gonzales, member; **Zoom:** Kent Tompkins, Transit; Weston Burrer; Dylon Goodman; Sonja Baker, Canon City.

After the roll call, introductions and approval of the August 7, 2025 minutes, the meeting opened with an observation by Don Bruestle. He was at a convention center luncheon when local candidates introduced themselves. When it was time for the Pledge of Allegiance, the CEO asked people to please stand for pledge. Don pointed out that it is more inclusive to ask if people are willing and able to stand.

There were no public comments or guest speakers.

### **City Report**

**Memorial Hall Disability Seating issues.** The issue of various production companies using the disability seating in Memorial Hall for their production (sound and lighting) equipment was raised. Chuck went to the Hall had a packet with photos of the seating chart and discussed some of the issues. One problem that Rita pointed out is that some wheelchair designated seating is behind pillars and, and the wheelchair companion seating is sometimes used for production. If the production company sells those seats and they are not available, that is on them, not Pueblo Memorial Hall.

Another problem is that the back row wheelchair seating is at the top of a really steep slope, and there may need to be toe plates to keep those occupants from ending up on top of the people seated below them.

Signage for wheelchair access is also not sufficient.

The fourth problem is the question of safe evacuation of patrons with disabilities. **Chuck will contact the fire department for those issues, and Guy will research the toe plate issue and handrail requirements.**

**Usual City report:** Paving of Bonfort from Constitution to McNaughton is done as of today, and striping will be done in a few weeks. Other areas are being milled, and concrete and ramps will be poured before paving is done. In Belmont, trees have been removed to permit pouring new concrete for sidewalks and ramps. The new sidewalks are 5 feet wide, and

walkable and safe with no heaving or other tripping hazards. A tree organization is working with homeowners to plant new trees in their front yards to replace the old trees.

Guest Kate Langworthy said that at the bus terminal, there is a new curb that creates a walking tripping hazard. Chuck will look. They are replacing all the old red pavers there for greater safety and access.

**County Report:** The City Government Services Center is nearly completely done. Work on the former Probation Office is now the new IT Center. No plans have been made for the old Social Services building yet.

**Community Development Block Grants** Lexi Stewart Romero reported that the grant had two residents be awarded money for ADA curb ramps and sidewalks. They would like to get more applicants and are looking at better advertising. The process involves filling out the forms, which they can help the residents of low/moderate income areas with, but they also have to get some neighbors to support the project and then give a short presentation of their project. Sharon pointed out that those are forbidding barriers for a lot of people, and Lexi will see if the Federal requirements would let them reduce some of those barriers. Sharon also suggested contacting the local Toastmasters Club to see if some of their members would help with the speech part. Don mentioned the 15 District Community Councils in Minnesota that would help residents access resources, but clearly Pueblo does not have the tax money for such laudable projects.

**Transit Report:** Kent Tompkins reported that PCC students with IDs now also ride free on Pueblo Transit, joining K-12 students and veterans. Ridership is going up, and they are seeing more students using the bus to get to school. They are also in the process of getting the new systems up to let passengers use their smart cell phones to track the progress of their bus in real time. They will let us know when it is ready. Chris Krengle reports that he still has a full staff at Paratransit.

Don asked about the growing number of new houses being built along Pueblo Boulevard, and with the new detention center, is there planning for Right of way for bus benches and shelters. Kent replied that that is the developers' jobs, but that they are making some preliminary plans for new routes as those open up.

**Transportation/TAC report;** Don heard that in the Hyde Park neighborhood they will be rehabbing 66 bus stops for accessibility. Kent said that the City will be doing that with bus stops but has no further information.

**Canon City Report** Sonja reported that the new trail system at Red Canyon Park had a ribbon cutting opened three new trails. Two of them are designed for people with disabilities. She is also working on getting trail chairs for Canon City.

**Old Business:**

**Board and Commissions Member Responsibilities Report:** Sharon, Rita and Don shared their respective perspectives on the meeting which replaced the ADA Committee Meeting in September.

**Letterhead:** The City has letterhead for us and has since 2023. Anything going out on it has to be run by the ADA Coordinator first.

**Dutch Clark Stadium Advertising:** the ADA Committee was not mentioned on the TV news reports, and nobody on the Committee has seen the Stadium scoreboard to see if we are mentioned there. When Dalton Sprouse comes to talk about the updates, we need to ask him about that.

**New Business:**

**Chilifest accessibility report:** Rita Gonzales reports that the portable toilets were still not adequate. While they did have some (unlabeled) ones it was too small for Tura's chair, without had rails, TP in the wrong place, etc. The only truly accessible bathroom was at Memorial Hall, and not on Saturday, since there was no show on Saturday and the building was closed. The only way to have it open is if they have security there. Talking to the Chamber of Commerce about hiring security so that we could have an accessible bathroom next year needs to be on our agenda.

**The need for protection for elderly and disabled senior landlords from squatters and adverse possession events.** This is a significant problem in Pueblo County. Suggestions to get the County Commissioners and District Attorney involved. Mary was going to contact the County Commissioners.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Campbell, Chair