

Pueblo and PACOG Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
November 1, 2012

Present: George O'Brien, co-chair; Ralph McPherson, Co-chair; Earl Wilkinson, ADA Coordinator, Don Bruestle, member, Jo Booms, interpreter; Jean Benfield, vice chair, Terry Skinner, guest; Sam Vigil, Public Works, Sherry Slate, Pueblo County; Kip Morphew, Facilities Manager; Kay Jamison, Deaf Gathering

The meeting was called to order at 1:05.

The Committee had requested interpreters on the behalf of Kay Jamison, who was not present at the beginning of the meeting.

Jean Benfield moved that speakers and other guests who have agreed to come at a specific time should be granted no more than 20 minutes wait time before interpreters or other support staff is cordially dismissed. Don Bruestle seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Minutes were approved as presented excepting a typo on page 2 with the correct spelling of "the."

OLD BUSINESS

Public Works Update: Sam Vigil

The Abriendo and Broadway streetscapes are in the landscaping phase. The 2012 ADA Curb Ramp Phase I project has started at Carteret and Sprague. Phase II is in the award process.

Bessemer Area Neighborhood Development (BAND) submitted a grant to upgrade Bessemer Park to include the fence and ball park. Sam passed around drawings to illustrate the improvements and Terry Skinner confirmed they are in compliance. Phase II is open for bids, including removing the asphalt path and replacing it with a 6ft wide concrete path and connecting to the pavilion, playground areas, and housing. It includes landscaping the fountain area. There may be additional pathways from the parking lot to the ball field and picnic table pads. Playground equipment will also be replaced.

There are curb ramp and sidewalk improvements planned along Pueblo Blvd at Surfwood and a new six foot wide attached sidewalk from O'Neal to Surfwood on the east. There is also a tie-in sidewalk north of Surfwood and

Big Bear Liquor and some replacing of sidewalk in the area. Highway User Tax Funds HUTF) paid for these improvements.

County Update: Sherry Slater

Sidewalk has been added at the Social Services office in Fulton Heights. Non-compliant curb ramps were also replaced. Next month, Sherry will bring the plans for the Emergency Operations Center. The Judicial Center is going as planned.

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Update: Kristen Castor

In the work session, members came up with a project for Colorado State University at Pueblo to determine what kinds of projects people would want and to start with the outreach to the county. Don pointed out that CSU is neutral and can lay the foundation for the outreach that will be necessary to educate the public about the concept.

Earl said the RTA in Colorado Springs was focused on capital projects and transit got a pittance. While the Committee would like to see Pueblo Transit get enough subsidy to make substantial improvements, this sentiment may not be shared by the voting public. Earl also said Pueblo West has been engaged at the Public Works Department, but he doesn't know if this has gotten up to higher management. To form an RTA, we need two governmental entities, which could be city and county, or Pueblo and Pueblo West, or Pueblo and other smaller cities. It could get too divided up if there are too many people involved and the tax base has to be significant enough to generate sufficient funds.

A ½ cent sales tax in Pueblo would raise \$7 million that could go to capital maintenance (roads and sidewalks) and transit. Earl is going to City Council to discuss options for funding transportation. Asphalt, concrete, and contractor associations are willing to fund advertising for some kind of RTA. In Springs, there was a Group "A" list and a Group "B" list. Group A projects got finished first and then Group B, so there was always something to work on as funding became available. It might be a good idea to talk with the Springs RTA about who is on their steering committee and how they set priorities.

Kristen will send out the Power Point that Bill Moore did on funding options. CSU could confirm this.

There was a discussion about whether there needs to be funding for printing and transport for the students. This should be at the discretion of the professor in charge.

There needs to be a standing invitation to anyone at CSU to attend our meetings or to schedule a meeting with our executive committee.

Transit Advisory Committee: Review of Complaints

After Hours Shelter at Greyhound

Kristen received a complaint from a Denver number about the lack of shelter after the Transit Center closes. She told the caller there is no provision at any Greyhound stop for 24 hour shelter. In some cities, the stop is at a store front that closes at 5:00. The caller insisted that in most cases there is a business nearby where passengers can duck in out of the elements. The Marriott is the closest option and Marriott staff has asked people to leave. Ralph says the stop in Bozeman Montana is similar and he has had to wait in the cold at night along with all the other passengers.

The Committee agreed that equal access to Greyhound means access to un-manned stations. While this is not comfortable for anyone, it applies to all passengers, so it is not discriminatory. We support Transit's plan to provide some kind of shelter, but we cannot require it.

Pueblo Transit

There was a complaint from a wheelchair user who was asked to wait for the next bus. There are two tie downs on the bus and there were three passengers in wheelchairs. The operator asked him if he wanted to transfer from his chair to a seat. When he declined, CitiLift was called, but had no one available to respond. The passenger heard his name go out over the radio and felt he was targeted.

The Committee agreed that the operator followed Pueblo Transit policy. There was some question about whether anyone should be asked to transfer out of their chair, but since this was left to the discretion of the user, there is really no issue. The only question is whether he was asked to wait out of turn. The only way to determine this is to review the tapes for October 8.

The same passenger had a complaint about the slope at a temporary stop at a garage near Parkview Hospital. Pueblo Transit staff says they did not detect a significant hardship on foot.

Committee members felt strongly that slope is a legitimate issue. There are many passengers with limited upper body strength who use manual wheelchairs. Even a slight slope is significant.

Kay Jamison noted that people with visual impairments have difficulty finding bus stops when they change.

Emergency Response

Pueblo Radio Group wants to work with Emergency Operations Center to get messages directly. He will be invited to this meeting.

Ralph also noted that captioning is not accessible to him, so when a news outlet scrolls breaking news across the bottom of the screen he has no idea what is happening unless the announcer also breaks into the newscast and reads it.

Otero County: Southeast Healthcare Coalition

Every county is supposed to have a Local Emergency Planning Committee and now, a Healthcare Coalition under a new Colorado Department of Health and Environment grant. Kristen and George attended the one in Otero County and will try to get one going through the City and County Health Department here.

The Healthcare Coalition addresses Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8: Health, Medical and Mortuary, in the event of a disaster. (Note: There are 15 Emergency Support Functions that are part of the Incident Command System that has been developed in response to Hurricane Katrina.) The purpose of this meeting was to define the mission, identify stakeholders, set ground rules, and identify who is in charge and what the schedule will be in accordance with grant directives.

Dr. Nevin-woods has expressed an interest in collaborating, but has not heard of this effort. Kristen and George will work with her on it.

NEW BUSINESS

Questions of Future City Manager

Marisa Walker has asked Kristen to represent the ADA Committee on a panel interviewing the three city manager finalists. She will make sure some of our questions are asked, though not all. This would be similar to the event

for selection of the Police Chief a few years ago. Kristen asked for a list of questions for Marisa to choose from.

What value do you see in maintaining a proactive ADA Advisory Committee?

How will you prioritize the city budget?

What would you do to prioritize sidewalk and street maintenance repair and replacement?

How will you support emergency planning for people with special needs, especially people with disabilities?

The meeting adjourned at 3:10.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday December 6, 2012 at El Pueblo History Museum, 301 North Union, from 1:00 to 3:00.

Anyone requiring accommodation should contact Earl Wilkison at 553-2295 a week before the meeting, especially when requesting interpreters for the deaf.