

Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
April 4, 2013

Present: Sharon Campbell, member; Jeanie Benfield, Vice-Chair; Larry Williams, member; John Madrid, member; Ron Burke, member; Earl Wilkinson, ADA Coordinator; Kip Morphew, city Facilities Manager, Ralph McPherson, Co-chair; Brenda Broyles, Pueblo Transit; Dale Villers, Fire Department; Kate Langworthy, RSVP/Americorps; Kay Jamison, Deaf Gathering; Stephanie Williams, guest; Terry Skinner, guest; Mike Sexton, Pueblo Parks and Recreation; Steven Meier, Pueblo Parks and Recreation, George O'Brien, co-chair; Chanell Turner, CitiLift; Kristen Castor, Secretary

Minutes were approved as presented

GUEST SPEAKERS

Steven Meier: Pueblo Parks and Recreation

Steven Meier is the Interim Director of Parks and Recreation and was asked to respond to a list of suggested improvements the Committee had made in 2011.

City Park

The city of Pueblo bought two used handicapped restrooms from the remodel of the rest stop on I-25 between Pueblo and Colorado Springs. One of them was erected in Mineral Palace Park, the other in City Park. This restroom will be moved to the Dog Park and connected with an accessible pathway.

There is a ramp into the Administration Building and staff are looking at how to make that accessible from the handicapped parking space and also allow for staff parking.

There is a ramp to the deck of the historic caboose through the Kiddie Rides. It is difficult to provide an accessible approach when the Kiddie Rides are closed. There are substantial obstacles from the parking lot, including the railroad bed.

The observation decks along Lake Joy do not have access, so the idea is to make one accessible with pathways. There could also be some improvements to picnic areas where the incline is more accommodating.

Mineral Palace Park

The pathways that lead to nowhere or through the rose garden will need more study. [These are part of the original Mineral Palace design and were not built with handicapped access in mind.]

Sam Vigil has already sent in designs to make the gazebo by the band shell accessible. It will come to around \$5,000.00.

The Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the I-25 redesign indicates that the stretch from Ilex to 13th is all that will be done probably within 5 years. This does not impact Mineral Palace Park. It will affect Runyon Field, which also has access issues.

City Park Bathhouse

There is money to remodel the bathhouse which could be leveraged for money to make improvements to the pool. Generally, it will be the same interior design as the Mineral Palace Park bathhouse with a different entrance. There are different ways to deal with pool entrance. Zero entrance would mean a new pool. Lifts would be new, but on such an old pool the expense doesn't make sense. There is little chance to make the pool an indoor covered one. The proposed Aquacenter at the RiverWalk won't be ready for another ten years at least.

RSVP/AmeriCorps Grant on Emergency Preparation: Kate Langworthy

Kate has program to train trainers in showing people how to make emergency preparation kits based on a PowerPoint Kristen and George put together. Once this has approval from the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), we will begin training. Each trainer needs to train two or three other people to train to or three other people and keep the program going. George added that the training needs to include plans to charge all the electrical devices, which is not part of the PowerPoint. Neither is a rotation of food-stocks. These are exactly the kinds of comments that need to come out of the training so that it can be put in the PowerPoint as a reference for the future.

Kristen will get the rotation plan from Rick Ritter and a description of the charging station from George.
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OLD BUSINESS

Transit Update: Brenda Broyles

Bus benches are being installed throughout the city. 115 have already been installed through the advertising company. Last year we were only able to purchase 24 from Lamar. The new company will install three a year and there are more mesh benches from Pueblo Transit to put in new locations, so let Brenda know where benches are needed. Every site has to be determined accessible first, so sometimes the bench has to be placed nearby, but not right at the sign for the bus stop.

The voice enunciator system is being installed on 16 buses (14 are in use at any time). Every bus stop on every route will be announced through GPS software. Kay Jamison wanted to know how people who are deaf will know what the enunciator is saying. There will also be a display that will show stops and outbound/inbound status. The pilot will be April 22. Each bus also has an AVL (Automatic Vehicle Locator) that will show exactly where the bus is so that if it pulls off the route, Dispatch will know. They are looking at developing an App so that people can find out where the bus is that they are waiting for. This will have to be covered by a grant. This is a city wide project. Waste water is also doing it. In the long run, Pueblo Police Department will also have access to it, so police can respond immediately if there is a problem with a bus.

Pat Manzanares is back part time and will respond to questions about operations.

CitiLift Update: Chanell Turner

Kristen and Stephanie shared problems getting places on time. Brenda said to call immediately so that Pueblo Transit could respond. It may be that they need another van, but without specific dates and times it isn't possible to determine what the problem is.

CSU Update

Sam Vigil is working with the CSU students right now to fasten down the basic parameters of the study. George O'Brien will find out what we need to do to sponsor the students' breakfast at the end of April.

Parking Patrol

There is a new statewide handicapped parking bill that has passed through the legislature. The fine is much higher because it is split between the state and the local entity.

Relationships with the Deaf Community: Kay Jamison

Fire Chief Chris Riley will be speaking at Deaf Gathering on May 9th. Phone lines in Pueblo don't have the bandwidth to run the communication that is needed for the video-terminal relays. VRS is pretty good, but it depends on cable. For the past five years Kay has been using Comcast. Ron advised that we remind council not to grant monopolies to the utilities so that we can get better service. Sharon said National Association of the Deaf (NAD) might be able to press the providers on access. Kristen and George have been trying to contact the Sheriff's Department about compliance with ADA requirements for interpreters for the deaf and supports for people with mental illness.

Chairperson's Report: George O'Brien, Ralph McPherson

Now that the Parking Patrol has new members, we could ask our Police Department to be a model for other cities. The next agenda should include time for Shelly Taylor and Lisa Shorter.

Ralph's tour group was impressed with the idea that we have an active ADA Committee. The gift shop at the Zoo is not fully accessible and the Monkey House was locked, but Ralph was able to work around those obstacles quickly. While sidewalks aren't perfect, they are passable the general outlook and should result in some business. Sharon said there are websites for accessible travel. Southern Colorado Heritage Tours and Frontier Pathways and Byways will promote our community because of the access we provide for our citizens.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Pueblo and PACOG ADA Advisory Committee is Thursday May 2 from 1-3 at the El Pueblo History Museum.

The next work session is Thursday April 18 from 1-3 at the El Pueblo History Museum.

Anyone who needs accommodations should contact Earl Wilkinson at 553-2295 at least 72 business hours before the meeting.