

Pueblo ADA Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
June 7, 2013

Present: George O'Brien, Chair; Kristen Castor, Secretary; Maggie Sims, Rocky Mountain ADA Center; Earl Wilkinson, ADA Coordinator Dale Buterbaugh, Guest; Sean Tapia, Pueblo County Facilities Manager; Weston Burrer, Pueblo County ADA Coordinator; John Madrid, member; Ron Burke, member; Jean Benfield, member; Terry Skinner, member; Don Bruestle, member; Ralph McPherson, co-chair

Terry moved and Ron seconded that the minutes be approved as presented.

City Updates

Downtown Master Plan

Pepper Whittlef presented draft plans for downtown pedestrian re-design to the Work Session. George noted that there was no handicapped parking included. Pepper has made note of this and will include it in the final draft.

Several members brought up the need for a crosswalk at 4th and West. Earl said there will be signal and grade improvements and bump outs. It is not likely that the state will add another signal, but it may be more pedestrian friendly.

George added that the signal at Elizabeth and 4th is not well timed. Dale said he has nearly been hit several times there. Earl said bump outs are about all that can be done to make the street a little narrower. That usually slows traffic down and makes drivers more attentive.

Public Works

The next phase of the curb ramp request project is in design phase.

The IT department is still working on aligning the sidewalk assessment tool with the asset management program.

County Update: Sean Tapia

The Facilities Department has the authority to manage all of the above ground facilities the county owns. Weston Burrer will assume all of the ADA Coordinator responsibilities. He has the transition plan, which is over 300 pages. He is also overseeing the new Emergency Operations Center and

reviewing the facilities that he has for ADA compliance. There should be public meetings in the next year. Most of what has been done was in 1995. Much of the rest of it was done in good faith. The Department of Social Services and the County Courthouse are already priorities.

Ralph brought up the accessibility at the courthouse for paying taxes. Sean said the intention was there, but there have been turf battles over how to do this. There will be a phone with a phone directory at every station. The building is owned and managed by the County Commissioners and so ultimately all the tenants have to answer to them. He asked that we wait three months before taking independent action.

Terry Skinner said she had a very difficult time with clerks when she tried to find out what kind of plates she needed. Sean agreed that this was a problem, but these people are exposed to a lot of public pressure. Dale said he has had trouble navigating the system because he can't hear if his name is called. Sean said he would look into some training. Earl said they need a grievance process and he will share it along with the name of the chair of the Denver Mayors Council on Disabilities.

Guest Speaker: Dale Buterbaugh

On March 23, Dale called St. Mary Corwin Hospital and told them that he was coming in at 11:15 and would need an interpreter. He also called the CFD to confirm. He was met by a friend and staff told him that his friend had to interpret or he had to use Skype. Then they told him they hadn't contacted anyone yet. He was met by a patient rep named Dave. The friend did not understand the doctor and there was a lot of missing information. He kept telling them there where local interpreters and different people either said there was or was not a list of interpreters. That day he waited 5 hours for an interpreters. He was moved to a different room and they finally gave him medication without benefit of interpretation to be sure he was getting the right thing for his condition.

This isn't the only time he's had trouble getting an interpreter. The first time, he was in an accident and the EMT s called the hospital (Parkview) ahead of time, but there was no interpreter and he had to depend on his niece. He was told the hospital had called for an interpreter, but either they hadn't or they cancelled. He verified this with Sign Language Network—they had cancelled. He knows the hospital has a contract with SLN, so why does it take three hours? In addition, there are several interpreters here who may not be medically certified but can still provide effective communication.

Dale has asked what is going on with video interpreting at Corwin and they said they are working on it. He wants to know why they don't test it here, Denver has more interpreters.

Guests Speaker: Maggie Sims, Rocky Mountain ADA Center

The area of effective communication is one of the most difficult ones. St. Mary Corwin is run by Centura, which is controlled by the Sisters of Charity, who are Catholic. It is now private. It depends on who owns it. If it's religious, they are under the Rehabilitation Act, which is less powerful, and not the ADA. If it is private, but not religious, they are covered by the ADA.

Dale said it isn't appropriate to use a family member to interpret. The doctor also said they wouldn't take deaf patients if they had to hire interpreters. At Parkview, they brought a TTY, and when the clerk finally understood what he needed, she called an interpreter.

Maggie said effective communication depends on who owns the facility. Title III (Public Accommodation) is required to provide effective communication. Title 2 (state and local government) has to give priority to what the citizen requested. Title III entities are basically private businesses and they have more leeway. A business can decide what they will try to do, but it has to result in effective communication. The state of Colorado has made a different law about being certified in specialized areas. The gist is that both parties must understand each other.

Dale has also had problems getting an interpreter at Department of Social Services. They insist on using a staff member who has minimal training, usually a year or two of sign language. Sharon pointed out that the incident at DSS could involve a conflict of interest. Dale insisted that he was told he had to accept what was offered. Maggie said it's alright to use friends if you want them.

Ralph asked about certification. Maggie said there is a Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. That's national.

Plan of Action

We need to identify the status of Corwin and Parkview. Ron pointed out there are different departments. Corwin is a faith based, non profit, so we need to talk to the head administrator. We will invite them for August. Corwin is under 504.

There may be legal representation from the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition.

The Center for Disabilities has a list of interpreters. Parkview said they must fill out a W9 first and so they will not always accept them.

The Judicial Building

Mike Harriman is the project manager and now works with Sean and Ashton. Mike will attend the next meeting. The surrounding block will be accessible. There is no definite requirement for on-street handicapped parking, but there is one for off streets.

Don repeated that the doorways, hallways and courtrooms need to accommodate bariatric chairs, including adult bathrooms and a family room. Bob Schmidt had these things on a list that was not included in other plans. Anything beyond absolute requirements may not have been included. Don also asked that we participate in reviewing newer buildings. Kristen listed what had been promised.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Weston Burr said the EOC is a function of the Sheriff's department and the training room is really the only thing open to the public. The restricted areas follow ANSI codes, which are accessible. The room could be looped for assistive listening.

Terry Skinner asked who is responsible for the fences that go around construction sites. The fence at 4th and West obstructs the vision of turning cars. Sean said it's a temporary permit and he will talk to the contractor.

The Song of Pueblo

Deborah Espinoza discussed the upcoming production for the "Song of Pueblo," which tells all of our history. Each song has a video, followed by a narration in addition to the songs. It starts in July and runs through August. We will be sponsored to attend. The group suggested real time captioning, written materials and assisted listening devices as an option. Multiple viewings are possible. We will come on June 29th at 6:30, show starts at 7:00.

The July 4th regular meeting of the ADA Committee is cancelled due to the holiday. The work session will take place as usual on July 18, 2013 at El Pueblo History Museum, 301 North Union from 1-3. The

next regularly scheduled meeting of the ADA Committee is Thursday August 1 at the El Pueblo History Museum at 301 North Union from 1-3.

Anyone needing accommodations should call Earl Wilkinson at 553-2295 at least 3 working days in advance.