

**Disabilities Advisory Commission  
Minutes January 11, 2010**

Present: Diane Traylor, John Suess, Vic Beebe, Alex Wittenmyer, Nancy Jones, Sharon Thomas, Hal Mansfield, Linda Benefiel, Larry Abston, Daryle Klassen, Dave McDanal, and Bettie Greenberg.

Absent: Kim Cardwell and Bob Mouser.

Guests: Chris Kanowitz from the Senior Advisory Board and Vern Richardson

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Minutes: Daryle noted that the Council study session he reported on last month was to study the creation of a fire authority not the creation of a fire authority.

Motion: Vic moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Diane seconded it. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: John reported that since November the account earned .06 cents and is now \$710.68. He also said that he is getting the statements and that they are correct.

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

City Council: Daryle reported that the Council is having its retreat this weekend. They will be talking about the 10-year capital improvement plan since the revenue stream is down.

DRS: Dave last reported that the State of Colorado had the Aid to Needy Disabled program on the chopping block. Through extensive lobbying efforts, Governor Ritter took it off the block.

City Staff: Bettie said that the Boards & Commissions meeting is February 17 and the City is requesting 2 members from each Board or Commission attend. Diane and John volunteered.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Accessibility: Vic reported on the following:

On 11/16/09, plans were reviewed for an expansion at rue 21, which is at the Outlet Mall. Parking and the bathrooms were existing and weren't part of the remodel. Everything else was okay.

In December, Vic said they spent several sessions reviewing plans for Lake Vista Apartments at Centerra, Many issues were unresolved. The plans were very complicated and redundant. The subcommittee often went to ANSI and IBC rules for information. ANSI and IBC standards are approved by the City instead of the ADA standards, but the rules are very similar. They will check with Building to see if any clarifications were received

On 11/29/09, they conducted a CO on Orthopedic Center of the Rockies. The building was okay, but it did not have enough handicap parking. The specs require 20% of parking to be handicap accessible at rehab facilities and there is a rehab facility in the building. OCR's architect told the contractor that they already had too many handicap spaces. The subcommittee sent a letter stating its concern about the insufficient number of handicap spaces to Building and they were to take it to the owners of the building.

John said he was at OCR last week and they had added handicap spaces on the side of the building. He will go out again and count the spaces to verify compliance.

Other: Dave said that he uses the ADA regional office in Colorado Springs to discuss questions. The website is <http://www.adainformation.org/default.aspx>

Vic said that Orchards corrected the issues surrounding the citizen complaint received. Although the curb cut can now be used, the handicap space is not van accessible, but nobody asked for the space to be van accessible. The group then discussed whether or not the City inspects striping of spaces in parking lots, which was unknown.

Dave asked what questions can legally be asked about service dogs. Members discussed that it is not legal to ask for a certification, as there is no requirement to have a certification. People also cannot ask if the person is disabled or his/her type of disability. If a dog is unruly, however, a business/organization has the right to have the service animal removed.

Employment: No report.

Housing: John said that commendations were submitted to City Council, but Council has not responded. The subcommittee is not sure what to do next. Daryle said that in talking to former Council members that were builders, he was told that a checklist of accessibility options already existed.

Parks & Rec: No report.

Transportation: Hal stated that the countywide survey results from the United Way's Pathways Past Poverty were released. Statistics included 65% of the homeless are families, 18 % said they had lost employment due to transportation issues, 28% said transportation was a barrier to employment, 56% found transportation easy, 31% said moderate, and 12% found it difficult. Also, 66% said that transportation costs were an issue.

Hal said that in February the Northern Front Range Metro Planning Agency is looking at a one-call center to call for dial-a-ride, etc. There is grant money available.

Loveland did a good job with snow removal, but in a few places snow was shoveled into handicap parking spaces, which is a no-no and if someone sees this problem, he/she needs to let the City know.

Hal discussed that the City is seeking input on its plans to cut its paratransit by strictly following the ADA requirements for service. Members discussed that Transfort went to strictly using the ADA guidelines for paratransit users, which cut out seniors and people who live outside the ½ mile radius of a fixed route bus. Saint may be able to help, but it is a volunteer operation and it may not be able to pick up the slack. Hal urged people to go to the City's website and respond to COLT.

PR/Communication: Linda said they are trying to get some schools on board to conduct a disabilities awareness event, but they have received no response. Linda thought she might go in person to enlist support. Linda said she is doing a small training for tutors at Front Range Community College on cognitive disabilities.

Historian: No report.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussed citizen complaint about some accessibility problems with some businesses on Eisenhower and although the citizen is correct, the buildings are old enough that they were grandfathered in.

On the lack of accessible seating at the Budweiser Events Center, members discussed what could be done. Diane mentioned writing a letter. Daryle suggested addressing the letter to Frank Lancaster, the County Manager. Vic said that the plans showed a lot of accessible seating, but depending on the event, it can be taken away or eliminated due to the location of stages, etc.

Diane reported on the Senior Advisory Board. A program to do free tax returns for seniors and low income people starts Feb. 1 from 9:00-3:00 Monday-Thursday at the Methodist Church at 6<sup>th</sup> and Grant. The job fair for seniors was canceled.

Diane also said that she attended the Police Advisory Board where the Crime Prevention office talked about lock boxes on citizen homes for use by emergency responders. Lock boxes had been donated by Home Depot, Lowes, etc. The seniors suggested getting lock boxes donated by realtors. Members asked if someone could buy his/her own lock box and get included in the program. Diane will ask Dave Sloat, Crime Prevention Officer, to the next meeting to discuss the program. Hal suggested contacting locksmiths for donations.

Daryle said that Council is dealing with issues on medical marijuana and recreational use. He said that there were 17 applications to become dispensaries in Loveland prior to the City's moratorium. The City is waiting for the State legislature to act, but the City is leaning toward treating dispensaries like liquor stores.

Diane said that the Community Marketing Commission is recruiting for members. Daryle remarked that it is an important commission as it will provide spending recommendations on \$300,000 - \$400,000 each year.

Hal reported that by the Odd Fellows building on Fourth St., a wood construction barrier extends into the sidewalk, it is hard to get around, and nothing is being worked on. Daryle said he'd find out who to talk to about it.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Larry moved to adjourn. Linda seconded the motion. Motion approved. Adjourned: 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary