

Disabilities Advisory Commission
Minutes of May 14, 2012

Present: Vic Beebe, John Suess, Vern Richardson, John Teumer, Diane Hinrichs, Larry Abston, Leona Watson, Chauncey Taylor, Dave McDanal, Alexandra Wittenmyer, Zach Wood, and Hal Mansfield

Absent: Larry Abston, Angie Clayton, and Chris Kanowitz

Guests: Chris Johnson and Linda Benefiel

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 pm

Treasurer Report: John S. reported that the account now has \$711.31.

Minutes: Diane moved to accept the minute; John T. seconded the motion.
Motion approved.

LIAISON REPORTS

City Council: Chauncey discussed Council's moratorium on fracking; Council wants to hear all sides. There is also a concern that the City may not have the legal authority to regulate drilling. The City's branding effort is another issue before Council. The Community Marketing Commission has been studying branding since its inception; however, many citizens have expressed concern that "The Sweetheart City" tag will be lost. Chauncey stated that the Loveland Rural Fire District's future is an issue. Citizens in the LRFD voted down a mil-levy and the City can't absorb much more of the cost.

DRS: Dave reported that the State's Department of Human Services is making money available to single low-income people with disabilities. The money would be distributed through counties. If too many people apply for the money, then a lottery would be held. DRS is telling clients. The deadline is May 15, 2012. It doesn't appear that a lottery will be necessary. Dave also reported that he had heard that the McKee Clinic downtown is moving.

Staff: Bettie mentioned that the City is still advertising for openings on DAC.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Accessibility: Vic said that he spoke to Ken Cooper about the handicap parking at the Library. Ken thinks the parking is fine. John S. is looking at where the parking should be located and will follow up with Ken. John S. said that the Loveland Housing Authority called him in response to the letter that he sent about the ADA issues at the Meadows Apartments. The LHA said the changes are on the list, but they have no funding. Finally, Alternatives to Violence has asked for design help on the shelter that is being planned.

Parks, Recreation, and Entertainment: No report.

Transportation: John T. reported that the Larimer Lift for outlying areas in the county went under, but it is being revived. Also, the City of Fort Collins is trying to expand the bus system in S. Fort Collins, which would expand Paratransit service, since Fort Collins's Paratransit only provides service within ¼ of a mile

from a fixed route system. John T. also mentioned that the Flex route from Fort Collins to Longmont is doing well.

With respect to citizens assisting in writing tickets for Handicap Parking violations, Chief Hecker provided information on how the Police Department uses the Senior Police Volunteers for this service. The Chief also sent statistics on such tickets written and offered to have an Officer meet with DAC. Members requested that Bettie ask the Chief to have an Officer come to the next meeting.

Vern stated that he had sent out the City's Pedestrian Plan to DAC members.

Public Relations/Communication: Diane asked Bettie to contact someone at the Leisure Times about holding a Disabilities Awareness Class, since she received no response.

Linda asked if members would be interested in holding a Disabilities Awareness Training for youngsters for the Odd Fellows summer program, which will be held July 7th from 12-2 pm or July 14th from 3-5 pm. Several members told Linda that they would help or get back with her.

Diane said that she and Chris K. attended the Rialto Theater Complex opening. The building has good and bad elements. There was no sign to the elevator and the restroom sink was not accessible; however, the shower room had a bench. In the restaurant, the hallway to the restroom was blocked by stored highchairs making it inaccessible to wheelchairs. Also, the first floor seating at the Rialto remains the same with limited access and the second floor is not open yet, so it's not known what handicap seating in the balcony will be like.

Historian: Alexandra said that she received the last folder and CD from Hal.

OTHER BUSINESS

Leona agreed to serve on the Accessibility and Transportation subcommittees.

Chris Johnson asked if he could do a presentation at the next meeting on Assistive Technology. Members agreed.

Adjournment: Diane moved to adjourn; Hal seconded the motion. Motion approved.
Adjourned: 6:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary