

Disabilities Advisory Commission
Minutes of August 13, 2012

Present: John Suess, Larry Abston, Chris Kanowitz, Vic Beebe, Leona Watson, Diane Hinrichs, Dave McDanal, Chauncey Taylor, and Bettie Greenberg

Absent: Vern Richardson, John Teumer, and Zach Wood

Meeting Called to Order: 6:05 pm

Guest: Heather Holmes—Rocky Mountain Medical Outfitting & Recycling on W. 8th Street. Heather gave an overview of RMMOR operations. They carry medical supplies from adhesive bandages to adjustable beds. RMMOR operates similarly to Goodwill; many items for sale are donated to them. A manual wheelchair, for example, sells for \$10-\$30. In the few situations where demand cannot be met, such as with incontinence supplies, C-PAC's and 4-wheel walkers, RMMOR purchases these items wholesale and sells them at a heavily discounted price. The only thing that RMMOR requests is that if a person stops using a piece of equipment, he/she donates the item back.

In 2011, approximately 3,000 people used RMMOR services. The number is about 5,000 people so far this year. Patron's demographics are approximately 1/3 seniors, 1/3 people with "lifelong" disabilities, and 1/3 people under 21. RMMOR does not rent equipment. Heather discussed that donations come from several places including Habitat, PVH, and the Banner Thrift Store. RMMOR does not do fundraising; however, financial donations are welcome. Heather started RMMOR and is one of the few such organizations in the nation. RMMOR is looking to expand into the Denver area.

Minutes: Larry moved to accept the minutes; Leona seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: The current balance is \$711.33, which is up a cent from last month.

LIAISON REPORTS

City Council: Chauncey reported that the City hired a new Finance Director, Brent Worthington. The City has also lifted the bans on fireworks and open burns. The open space by the former HP/Agilent property has been renamed the Rivers Edge Natural Area, which consists of 121 acres and 3 ponds. Chauncey asked whether or not DAC had been involved with the planning of accessibility of the area. Members said no. Chauncey reported that Water & Power is looking at how to fund critical deferred infrastructure improvement that needs to be completed. The question will be, is the City willing to go into debt? The City is also looking at capital expansion fees. Oil and gas exploration is also a big issue before Council. The City is looking at what type of regulation would be helpful to the City, but within the legal parameters set by the State. Finally, Chauncey remarked that the Sculpture events were great.

DRS: Dave passed out information on a new DRS fundraiser; the first annual Disabled Pride and Music Festival will be held September 29th. Dave asked if DAC would be willing to donate the \$711.33 to DRS to help pay for services. The DRS has been holding the funds, and DAC isn't really using the money and doesn't really need it. Members requested that the subject be placed on next month's agenda.

Staff: Bettie reported that Angie Clayton resigned, which leaves DAC with three vacancies.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Accessibility: No report. Vic said he'd call the Building Division, because the subcommittee members are not being called to review plans. Diane thanked John S. for helping with the issue of ramps at her apartment complex; three of the four ramps have already been replaced.

Parks, Recreation, and Entertainment: No report.

Transportation: No report.

Public Relations/Communication: Diane said that the Disabilities Awareness Event at the Oddfellows went well. Both children and adults participated. After the disabilities simulation, the participants discussed their impressions and that being disabled doesn't make you stupid, that life isn't over, just different.

Historian: Bettie said that Hal sent her pictures from the Oddfellows event. She'll send the pictures to members.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chris brought a brochure from Luprino Foods. They are hiring. She also mentioned the Cat House used a hot dog cart for part of a fundraiser.

Leona asked Chauncey about the possible moratorium by the City of Fort Collins on building housing as she was concerned about the effect on Loveland's rental market. Chauncey said that he'd ask around, but if Fort Collins actually took that action, the City can't really do much.

Adjournment: Diane moved to adjourn; Larry seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary