

Disabilities Advisory Commission Minutes  
March 10, 2014

Present: Vern Richardson, John Suess, Diane Hinrichs, Chris Kanowitz, B.J. Michels, Larry Abston, Bettie Greenberg, and Dave McDanal

Absent: Leona Watson, Chauncey Taylor, John Teumer, and Zach Wood

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

Minutes: Larry moved to approve the minutes; Diane seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Guest Speaker: David King, DRS Board of Directors, discussed the Person First Festival being planned for September 13, 2014. In addition to changing the name of the event, it will no longer be a fundraiser for DRS. It will be about organizations and agencies that serve the disabled. Weld and Larimer counties will also be included. There will still be a parade. Following the parade, it will be more like a party with booths where people can learn things about disabilities and services. The Commission on Disabilities in Fort Collins has signed up to be a sponsor. The City of Loveland could also be a sponsor; whatever suits DAC's fancy. David said that there is a steering committee, with a \$4,000 budget, that is putting the event together. If DRS receives more money for the event, then the facilities will be upgraded.

Discussion ensued about what DAC does for disability awareness and how DAC could participate, such as setting up an obstacle course and getting the Youth Advisory Commission to help with the booth. Diane offered to send David a list of the resources of organizations that she uses for disabilities awareness events. Members also discussed how to market the event, so that people know that it is a festival for people with disabilities.

#### **LIAISON REPORTS**

Council Report: No report.

DRS: Dave M. reported that new flood victims continue to trickle in for help. United Way of Larimer County had \$1 million for flood relief, but only spent about \$38,000. United Way of Weld County had the same amount and spent it all. Dave said if anyone knows people who were in the flood and need help, send them to him and he'll give them the number for United Way.

Staff Liaison: No report.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Accessibility Report: No report.

Transportation: B.J. shared an article on the Senior Transportation Coalition. A meeting is scheduled at the Fort Collins Senior Center on Wednesday, March 12, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., if anyone wants to attend. The Coalition is looking at how to plan and provide for the growing transportation needs of seniors, which ties in well for people with disabilities, too.

Bus Stops: Discussed the \$45,000 being spent by COLT to upgrade bus stops. The amount of money is not enough for major upgrades, which is why COLT only targeted a few stops to improve.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Boards & Commission Summit: The booklet showing the accomplishments of the various Boards and Commissions was passed around.

Priority Based Budgeting: Chris and Vern represented DAC at the City's meeting on Priority Based Budgeting. Eight categories were reviewed and priorities discussed. For example, with Public Safety, people were asked what they liked and what they wanted changed. It wasn't enough to say that more police were needed. Participants were asked to be very specific on what they needed to feel safe and secure, such as better street lighting. Chris said she and Vern interjected accessibility concerns often.

Membership: Leona's contact information did not work, so Vern was unable to find out why she has not been attending. Bettie will contact the City Attorney's Office to find out about removing Leona due to lack of participation.

Adjournment: John S. moved to adjourn; Chris seconded the motion. Motion approved.  
Adjourned: 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary