

## **Disabilities Advisory Commission Minutes July 14, 2014**

Present: Vern Richardson, Chris Kanowitz, B.J. Michels, Zach Wood, John Teumer, John Suess, Chauncey Taylor, Dave McDanal, and Bettie Greenberg

Meeting Called to Order: 6:05 p.m.

Minutes: Zach moved to approve the minutes; John S. seconded the motion with the correction that he was in attendance last month. Motion approved.

**GUEST** Mark Kirkpatrick, City of Loveland Transit, handed out a few copies of a draft plan to improve bus stop accessibility. Mark reviewed some key aspects of the plan. He said that he used ADA as the minimum criteria and that improved bus stops benefit all riders. As part of the plan, COLT will obtain citizen feedback which would include DAC and the Senior Advisory Board. Mark discussed the information he used to develop the plan. A discussion ensued regarding the location of certain stops and the limitations that exist in moving some stops, such as there is no good place to locate the stop. In prioritizing stops, Mark said the ones with safety issues will be addressed first. A physical inventory of stops has been done, but it hasn't been analyzed yet. Mark stated that the cost of the bus stop improvements should be partially offset by a reduction in the number of para-transit trips that will be required. Since para-transit is much more expensive to operate than a fixed-route system, making more stops accessible would allow more people to use the fixed-route system. Mark spoke about the need to involve private organizations, such as MCR, on where stops are located. Adding a system for providing feedback onto COLT's website was also discussed. Finally, concerns over snow removal and bus stop maintenance, which COLT contracts out, were discussed. Members urged Mark that COLT talk to the contractor about the snow removal issues. Mark said that he would come to other DAC meetings after members have had the opportunity to review the plan.

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

Council: Chauncey reported that Council is focusing on open space funding with Larimer County. Currently, the County collects open space sales tax and allocates funds and the cities receive about 58% of the money generated by the sales tax. The County wants to conduct a referendum to change the funding split to a 50/50 split, which will impact Loveland's program.

DRS: Dave discussed the Person First Festival coming up in September. A lot of organizations have registered for booths. Dave announced that DRS is moving October 1, 2014, to the Community Life Services building along with House of Neighborly Services. Unfortunately, DRS's current landlord wants them out September 1<sup>st</sup>. Members discussed Dave's interview in the Reporter-Herald article on Loveland's lack of affordable housing.

Staff Liaison: Bettie said that the applicant could not make the July meeting for an interview, but she will work on scheduling an interview. Bettie also reported that Public Work's looked at the handicap parking space on Fourth Street by the Odd Fellows Building, but they didn't see anything wrong with it. John T. and Zach said that area next to the parking space is not flat and is difficult to maneuver.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Accessibility Report: John S. reported that he reviewed and commented on the parking lot plan for World Beverage. Bettie brought up citizen complaints about the patio at the Senior Center. The patio is intended to be used for private functions and the access is through the Senior Center; however, patrons want to use it for other purposes, such as smoking, which is currently banned. John S. said the Senior Center could contact him if they want to change how the patio is used and want the access looked at.

PR/Communication: Chris reported on the People First Festival being held in Fort Collins on September 13. She recruited Beth Gumestad, the City liaison to the Youth Advisory Commission, to get YAC members to help with a visual aid for DAC's booth. Discussion ensued that DAC doesn't need a pool vehicle for the event.

Historian: John S. said he'd add the Reporter-Herald article to the scrapbook.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Adjournment: Zach moved to adjourn; Vern seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Adjourned: 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary