

**Disabilities Advisory Commission Minutes
October 13, 2014**

Present: Vern Richardson, Chris Kanowitz, B.J. Michels, John Suess, Taylor Summer, and Bettie Greenberg

Guest: Dawn Choate-Sakes, ARC

Absent: Chauncey Taylor, Dave McDanal, Zach Wood, John Teumer

Meeting Called to Order: 6:03 p.m.

Minutes: John moved to approve the minutes; Chris seconded the motion. Motion approved.

LIAISON REPORTS

Council: No report.

DRS: No report.

Staff Liaison: No report.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Accessibility Report: John said that no plans were reviewed; however, he met with Historic Preservation people and inspected the Milner-Schwartz House at Fairgrounds Park to see if it could be made accessible for tours. John said that the house could not be made accessible; a wheelchair can't even go inside. Doors are only 29 inches wide. As an alternative to tours, a video is planned; however, there is no place to really show it. John said that he gave the Historic Preservation representative pointers on what should be in the video.

PR/Communication: Chris said that the Person First Festival was great. The DAC booth went well. Members of the Youth Advisory Commission made a book of famous people with disabilities. A lot of people stopped by the booth.

OTHER BUSINESS

John mentioned an organization, Wilderness on Wheels, which has built a 2 mile accessible trail located on U.S. 285 about sixty miles southwest of Denver.

Bettie brought Larimer County's request that DAC provide a letter of support for a grant application being submitted for a paved trail section that would connect the Fort Collins and Loveland trail systems. John moved to write a letter; B.J. seconded the motion. Motion approved.

A member mentioned the creation of the Leveraged Freedom Chair, which is a new type of chair for developing countries. The chair is designed to use on rougher terrains and uses levers rather than pushing on the wheels. Members commented that the wheelchair presumes that the user has sufficient use of his/her upper body to propel themselves with this design.

B.J. passed an article around about the Keensburg animal sanctuary, which is accessible.

Vern mentioned that he's been receiving a lot of information on jobs and other disability information and that he'd share the web link.

Taylor asked about the criteria for deciding where to place audio crosswalk signals and what is the cost compared to other crosswalk signals. Bettie said she'd get the answer to that question.

Adjournment: John moved to adjourn; B.J. seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Adjourned: 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary