

Disabilities Advisory Commission Minutes February, 9 2015

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

Guest: Dawn Choate-Sakes, Diane Hinrichs, and Karlee Keller

Meeting Called to Order: 6:02 p.m.

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

LIAISON REPORTS

Council: Chauncey stated that the new City Attorney, Tami Yellico, started. Council will also be hiring a new Municipal Judge. They are evaluating the position's duties to determine whether the job should be full or part-time. Chauncey reported that the Regional Tourism Authority for Northern Colorado is moving forward, and it is in the running for state grant funding. He also discussed the City's use of incentive programs and Council's review and approval of the Rialto's increased fee schedule. Finally, Chauncey talked about the election scheduled for February 12, to establish a Downtown Development Authority. Discussion ensued.

DRS: Dave reported that the Loveland DRS office has moved to Palmer Gardens. Due to unexpected and last minute costs associated with the move, DRS could not move into the HNS facilities. Since the current DRS office space had already been leased, they had to quickly find somewhere else to move. Dave mentioned a funding opportunity (up to \$250), for low-income people over 60 with visual impairments, to help pay for yard work, maintenance, etc. He also said that they received a grant to help low-income people over 55 with visual impairments obtain various visual aids. Finally, Dave said that the DRS opened up its waiting list for section 8 vouchers. Currently, he is aware of approximately 60 homeless people with disabilities.

Staff Liaison: Bettie said that the annual citywide Boards and Commission meeting is February 19 at the Rialto Theater Complex. She also reported that Larimer County has requested a letter of support on another trail connection project between Loveland and Fort Collins. Members agreed to write a letter of support. Discussion ensued regarding the trail at Devil's Backbone, which is no longer accessible due to erosion.

Motion: Vern moved to have Bettie draft the support letter for Larimer County on the trail connection; B.J. seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Bettie also mentioned that the City is reviewing its ADA policies and procedures to help assure it is meeting the 2010 standards that became effective in 2012.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Accessibility Report: Discussed that John S. had been told that DAC did not need to review plans and that the ones that Planning provides are not helpful. Bettie said that she'd talk to the appropriate person about this matter.

Transportation: John T. said that the group is meeting every other month; they didn't meet in January, so there is no report.

PR/Communication: Chris said aside from planning more outreach events at the ARC store, she'd like to update DAC's brochure.

NEW BUSINESS

Committees and Goals: Members discussed revising goals and reviewing committees at the next DAC meeting. Bettie agreed to locate the prior goals and committees and provide to the group. Discussed that the DAC webpage needs to be reviewed to see what's on it and then it needs to be updated. Bettie will also bring an overview of what Boards & Commissions should be doing.

Officer Elections:

Chris nominated Vern to remain the Chairperson. Passed unanimously.

John S. volunteered to be Vice-chair. Passed unanimously.

Bettie will remain secretary.

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

Adjourned: 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary