

## **Disabilities Advisory Commission Minutes March 9, 2015**

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

Absent: Chauncey Taylor

Guest: Dawn Choate-Sakes and Karlee Keller

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

Minutes: John S. moved to approve the minutes with corrections from DRS; John T. seconded the motion. Motion approved.

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

DRS: Dave corrected statement in the February meeting minutes. The funding opportunity to help pay for yard work, maintenance, etc. was for low-income and over 60; people do not have to be disabled to be considered for the program. Dave discussed the homeless count done by the City of Loveland this year, which showed a reduction in homelessness. This year's count was not a comprehensive survey; it did not include people who use motels/hotels on occasion or "couch it", and would otherwise be considered homeless. The City completes comprehensive counts only every 2-3 years. Discussion ensued about why the City does the homeless count this way. Dave mentioned that the affordable housing situation in Loveland has not changed. Chris shared the Affordable Housing Commission's goals.

Staff Liaison: Bettie distributed a copy of the DAC letter of support for connecting Loveland and Fort Collins recreation trails that was sent to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Transportation: John T. discussed what happens at meetings of the Larimer County Mobility Council; grants are available for different areas, such as the elderly, bus stops, etc. Various members also provide reports.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

B.J. and Chris reported about the City's Boards and Commission Summit that they attended last month. The meeting provided good networking opportunities. B.J. spoke to Parks & Recreation representatives; DAC is welcome to attend their meetings to discuss accessibility issues. Chris shared the Senior Advisory Board's brochure, which she obtained from one of its members.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Committees and Goals: Members reviewed old goals. The group agreed that people first language needs to be used. Discussed keeping the first goal, and adding Barrier Awareness training for the City and partnering with ARC. Discussed updating DAC's brochure, which should include data on people with disabilities in Loveland and disability etiquette. Members also discussed partnering with other Boards and Commissions on Housing issues that impact people with disabilities. Goal number 3 is currently non-existent and should possibly be eliminated. The group also talked about revising the mission statement. Chris mentioned the 2009 collaboration plan where DAC had

representatives attend various commissions. Bettie will send out a draft of the goals to discuss at the next meeting.

Members agreed to continue to address the goals and committees at the next DAC meeting, including developing definitions and roles for each committee.

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

Adjourned: 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary