

Disabilities Advisory Commission Minutes April 13, 2015

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

Absent: Chauncey Taylor, Dave McDanel, and Karlee Keller

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

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

LIAISON REPORTS

Staff Liaison: Bettie stated that Chris, John S., and B.J.'s DAC terms expire June 30, and that they need to reapply, if they want to continue as members of DAC. Bettie reported a Public Works employee would be presenting their updated Public Works ADA transition plan at the May meeting. She also said that name tags for members have been ordered. Bettie said that she followed up with Alison Hade, in the Community Partnership Office, about how the homeless count is conducted. Alison explained that the most recent homeless count was done per HUD requirements. More complete homeless counts have been done in the past by the City, but only to gain a better picture of the problem. Bettie reported that some of the DAC information on the City's website has been corrected. Discussion ensued that information on the website is incorrect again. Bettie will follow up to see what happened. Finally, Bettie reminded people that on April 22, Parks & Recreation is holding a meeting and requesting feedback on future recreational facilities.

Chris talked about whether there is information available from the City's Emergency Dispatch about people with disabilities in case of an emergency that she can include in DAC's resource guide.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Members agreed that they wanted to discontinue having specific subcommittees. Goals can be addressed as people are interested.

OLD BUSINESS

Mission Statement and Goals: Members agreed to the new mission statement recommended by John Suess:

Advocate for people with disabilities in our community and educate the public about disabilities.

Members agreed to the following goals:

- Be a resource for people with disabilities within Loveland to know what services are available to them. Foster relationships with other groups locally and nationally, including City of Fort Collins Commission on Disabilities.

- Advise the City Council and City employees of barriers to safe, user friendly transportation, city facilities, housing, community participation, and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Educate City employees, City Council, businesses, and the general public on the realities faced by people with disabilities.

TASKS

- Update DAC brochure. Obtain data on people with disabilities in Loveland. Advise the public on disability etiquette.
- Identify non-profits and other groups offering services and resources.
- Educate ourselves with common building codes, and other requirements from the ADA. Have regular educational components at DAC meetings. Ask members of agencies, non-profits and others to educate DAC on the scope of services being offered to the disabled individual, e.g.: ARC of Larimer County, Multiple Sclerosis Society and financial assistance programs.
- Reach out to appropriate City departments to provide them with disability awareness education and discuss City operations or projects that may impact people with disabilities.

Members of DAC should try and attend meetings of other City Boards and Commissions, as well as groups offering services to disabled individuals

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Adjourned: 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary