

## **Disabilities Advisory Commission Minutes May 11, 2015**

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

Others in attendance: Dawn Choate-Sakes, Diane Hinrich

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

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

**GUEST PRESENTATION:** Dave Debaere, Jeff Baily, City of Loveland, Public Works Engineering

Dave and Jeff discussed the City's updated ADA transition plan for access to right-of-ways and sidewalks. The plan addresses existing infrastructure and includes areas done under the old ADA standards. Under the ADA, when street maintenance of one inch or greater is planned, the corners are required to be redone to meet current standards. New infrastructure is required to comply with current ADA standards. The City is focusing on corners. There are 8000 ramps in City right-of-ways, of which 75% have been inventoried. Discussion ensued about the pooling of water at the bottom of some ramps. The style of ramp under the old ADA standards caused more problems. For ramps being redone or new ramps, the City tries to prevent pooling of water, if possible. Members also brought up the stormwater inlet grate in front of the cupcake shop on 4<sup>th</sup> Street as being problematic. Jeff stated that people can call the Public Works hotline, or comment on the Public Works Facebook page, about ADA concerns with sidewalks, sewer grates, ramps, etc. Jeff also said that he would like to reach out to DAC more frequently.

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

Council Report: Chauncey discussed the Senior Advisory Board Summit and mentioned that DAC could collaborate with SAB, since both groups share several similar concerns. SAB is planning on having quarterly meetings with Council; a combined group could be a powerful voice. He discussed the downtown redevelopment efforts between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> streets. The City has purchased all but two properties; negotiations continue on those properties. Additionally, the Downtown Development Authority is now operating. Chauncey mentioned the lawsuit against the City concerning the financial incentive given to Sprouts. He also talked about the question of repealing the sales tax on food; he would prefer that such a decision be made by a citizen vote.

Dawn asked about Restorative Justice and was there a person within the City to help with people with developmental disabilities that get into the criminal justice system. Bettie said she'd work on this question.

DRS: Dave said that affordable housing continues to be a problem. Even if DRS has vouchers, there is nothing available or the voucher doesn't cover the rent. Chauncey said that the City is looking at fee waivers on rehabilitation of units, but not for developers to build affordable housing.

Staff Liaison: Name tags for DAC members were distributed. Bettie asked members if they had any comments in response to the Citizen Financial Advisory Commission inquiry about impact of proposed budget cuts, if the sale tax on food is eliminated. Members declined comment since DAC did not have information on what departments proposed to cut.

## **TASKS:**

Disabilities Awareness Events (DAD): Vern asked if members wanted to set up a booth at the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration at North Lake Park. Discussion ensued concerning problems with access, parking, weather, etc. Vern stated that he would know by May 29<sup>th</sup>, if a free booth was possible. The group tabled the matter until the June meeting. Chris suggested having a booth at the PHAMALy performance scheduled at the Rialto at the end of July. Bettie said she'd find out if that was possible.

Update the DAC website/brochure: Members need to decide what to include in content, such as other non-profits and other groups that provide services to people with disabilities, such as DRS, 2-1-1, and ARC. People also asked if it was possible to get information on the City's newsletter that is sent with utility bills. Bettie said she'd find out if it was possible and, if so, the requirements for submittal, such as submission time frame and length of articles.

Educating DAC Members: Need to develop a plan.

Provide various City operations disability awareness education: Jeff Baily volunteered his group with Public Works to participate.

Attend other types of meetings: Boards & Commission and other groups offering services to disabled individuals. No action taken.

Discussed reviewing tasks and developing a plan at the next DAC meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Taylor provided an article on People First Language that can be used for education.

Chris said she attended the House of Neighborly Services Open House. She noted that there is not a bus stop close by, but the City is putting in a new stop. Chauncey mentioned that a senior day care facility is also being developed there.

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

Adjourned: 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary