

Disabilities Advisory Commission
Minutes March 14, 2011
Loveland Museum Conference Room

Present: Vic Beebe, Larry Abston, John Teumer, Zach Wood, John Suess, Vern Richardson, Diane Hinrichs, Kathy Witcher, Dave McDanal, and Bettie Greenberg

Absent: Hal Mansfield, Linda Benefiel, Alexandra Wittenmyer, Angie Clayton, and Daryle Klassen

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

Approval of the Minutes: Larry moved to accept the minutes; Diane seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Treasurer Report: John said that he hasn't received the statement yet.

LIAISON REPORTS

DRS: Dave reported that the Salvation Army's Bell Ringer program did really well this past year. As a result, DRS received some much needed money from the Salvation Army. The money will go toward funding prescription assistance, gas vouchers, transportation, the special needs fund, and emergency money. The Salvation Army helped several agencies. DRS now has enough money this year to keep going. Dave mentioned that State and Federal budget cuts are pending, which will mean cuts to DRS funding.

Council: No report

Staff: Bettie reported she, Hal, and Linda attended the City's Boards and Commissions Summit meeting. She passed around the report for people to read.

Bettie mentioned that she received an e-mail from Steve Sutter, a former DAC member, regarding cognitive disabilities. Bettie said she'd forward the information to members.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Accessibility: Vic said that on 3/14 plans for the Golden Corral Restaurant on Sculptor Drive were reviewed. The building plans met specifications. There was no site plan, so accessible parking was unknown. The plans were approved contingent on the parking meeting specifications. The set of plans reviewed were electronic rather than paper, and it took some getting used to reviewing the plans in this format.

Employment: No report. Dave noted that the unemployment rate in Colorado is now higher than the national average and that the unemployment rate for people with disabilities is even higher.

Parks, Recreation, and Entertainment: Vern said that the City's Bike & Pedestrian committee met on February 16th. There was a draft plan, and people made comments on it. The City's intends to continue with the plan, but how to fund it is uncertain.

Transportation: Diane stated she participated in a COLT Appeals Committee review of a senior who had been denied ADA status for use of COLT's paratransit service. The question was whether or not this person, who had physical issues and could not walk very far, would be considered disabled. If she had been 35 years old,

she would have been considered disabled. The Committee recommended that she be considered disabled. The final decision is up to Public Works.

PR/Communication: No report. Bettie asked if everybody received the letter from Linda to pass out at schools for Disabilities Awareness Day. Members responded that they had received it. Dave said he's saving wheelchairs for the event.

Historian: No report

OLD BUSINESS

Old Records: Bettie said that she has not found any new information on when DAC was started. Vic believes that the Handicapped Advisory Commission was started in 1976. The City Clerk's records indicated that HAC was formed in 1982. Bettie agreed to ask the City Clerk's office to expand the search to include documents containing Vic's name or to search City Council minutes.

Meeting Space: Bettie said that she checked on using the Library's meeting room. She was told that since the Library lost space during construction, the meeting room for Library programs. She also checked with Chilson, but there are not any rooms available when DAC meets. Diane said that she would look at conducting community outreach and holding meetings at other locations.

Budweiser Events Center: Diane said that she mailed the letter to the Larimer County Commissioners regarding accessibility issues. Diane mentioned the concern that there is no handicapped parking for buildings at The Ranch other than the Budweiser Events Center. Discussion ensued regarding the need for transportation to events at the Ranch. Bettie agreed to ask Marcy Abreo about special event transportation.

NEW BUSINESS

2011 Goals and Subcommittee Assignments: The goals for 2011 were updated during the February meeting, but since there were so few members last month, members agreed to delay committee assignments until this meeting. The following subcommittee assignments were made:

- Transportation: Zach Wood, John Teumer, and Vern Richardson
- Employment: Alexandra Wittenmeyer and Kathy Witcher
- Public Relations: Angie Clayton, Linda Benefiel, and Diane Hinrichs
- Parks & Recreation: Vern Richardson and Larry Abston
- Accessibility: Vic Beebe, John Suess, and Larry Abston

Bettie said she'd update the goals and subcommittee assignment sheet and distribute it to the group.

Financial Sustainability: Vern reported that he attended all three meetings on helping to solve the City's pending financial shortfall, and John S. attended two meetings. In the first meeting, participants went through 73 items and said either yes (need it), no (don't need it), or make it pay for itself. The next step was to prioritize the items, which was done electronically. Breakout sessions were held, and the various groups were asked to save \$3.5 million. Vern said the breakout group he attended went about trying to save money in a logical manner. It appeared that other groups approached the problem in a different manner, such as political motivations. The third meeting was held to review what had been done and to come up with three things to give to the Citizens' Finance Advisory Commission. Vern said it was interesting to watch the various

groups determine what to cut and not to cut. There were some good ideas, but he wasn't sure if those ideas saved enough money.

John S. said that a survey is online for the next day or so if people are interested in letting their opinions be known.

Adjourned:

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary