

Disabilities Advisory Commission
Minutes November 8, 2010
Loveland Museum Conference Room

Present: John Suess, Vic Beebe, Vern Richardson, Larry Abston, Diane Hinrichs, Hal Mansfield, Linda Benefiel, Dave McDanal, and Bettie Greenberg

Absent: Kim Cardwell, Alexandra Wittenmyer, and Daryle Klassen

Guests: John Teumer, Zach Wood, Mark Mason, and Chris Johnson

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

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

Treasurer Report: John reported an account balance of \$710.94. Larry moved to accept the report; Dave seconded the motion. Motion approved.

LIAISON REPORTS

Council: John read Daryle's report. Loveland's new City Manager, Bill Cahill, arrived November 1. Daryle had an hour-long meeting with Bill. The other boards and commissions that Daryle serves on have requested that Bill attend their respective meetings, but Daryle thinks that Bill needs about six months.

Daryle thanked DAC for its attention to the ballot initiatives that were resoundingly defeated in the election. He said that the City's budget passed the second reading as proposed. The budget for 2011, however, mirrors that of 2007. This past year there were no employee raises and each employee took a mandatory four days of furlough. There will no employee raises in 2011, but there will be no furlough days. The City remains in a better place financially than 99% of other American cities.

Daryle provided some statistical information on the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate is 9.6% nationally, 8.2% for the State of Colorado, 6.4% for Larimer County, 7.3% for Fort Collins, and 5.5% for Loveland. While he isn't happy about these numbers, he thought that the City has done something right.

DRS: Dave said that it's been the busiest since he's worked for DRS. Also, for the first time in 15 years, DRS received 80 section 8 housing vouchers, which were snapped up quickly. At first, the vouchers all went to the Fort Collins Housing Authority, but since the vouchers were for the entire county, Loveland eventually received its share. The vouchers were only for people with disabilities. Finally, DRS is seeing a lot of people with seasonal affective disorder, since the time change.

Staff: Bettie explained that DAC's resolution opposing the tax initiatives on the ballot was done too late to get on a council agenda prior to the election. Bettie passed around an invitation received from Nancy Jones.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Accessibility: No plans or CO's were done.

Employment: No report.

Parks, Recreation, and Entertainment: Vern said that the City's Bike & Pedestrian Committee has not met yet. He asked that members let him know if they want information from the committee. Vern also provided John with the Parks survey notebook.

Transportation: Hal stated that the countywide one-call transportation service is moving along. The Flex route to Denver is a dramatic success with high usage. Hal said he'd like to transition out of the Transportation Subcommittee and would like somebody to attend the MPO meetings with him for a while, since one can't go into this group cold.

PR/Communication: Linda said that Hearts & Horses did not contact her this year to conduct a barrier awareness event. Linda proposed that DAC compose an invitation for barrier awareness training at the Odd Fellows. Attendees would have to reserve a spot. Invitations would be sent to public officials and school district employees. Members discussed doing this event around May. Bettie said that the City would pick up the costs for copying, etc., so it won't be necessary to charge for the event.

Historian: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Budweiser Events Center: Diane told Shane at the Events Center that she was coming for an event and the seats she received, after spending ½ hour on the phone, were not accessible. There is seating at different price points, but it's all on the upper level. Diane questions whether Shane is counting seats such as she had as accessible, because they are not.

NEW BUSINESS

COLT Appeals Board: Bettie said that COLT requested a DAC member be on COLT's ADA appeals board for riders appealing not meeting disability requirements. Diane volunteered.

Retail Check Cashing: Hal relayed problems that Linda encountered with a retail store not knowing how to handle imprinted checks for the visually impaired and a person with alternative ID to a driver's license. Linda has a Colorado ID, but the store wouldn't accept it. Grocery stores don't have a problem with taking the checks with the Colorado ID.

DAC Answer Line: The Senior Advisory Board has a line for questions through Parks & Recreation where a message is left and someone returns the call. Can DAC do something similar? Bettie said she'd check into it.

DAC's Web Page: Linda asked that a link for Hadley School for the Blind be added to DAC's web page.

Cancellation of Meeting: Hal moved to cancel DAC's December's meeting; Vic seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Adjournment: Larry moved to adjourn the meeting; Hal seconded the motion. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary