

Disabilities Advisory Commission
Minutes August 9, 2010
Loveland Museum Conference Room

Present: John Suess, Vic Beebe, Vern Richardson, Larry Abston, Alexandra Wittenmyer, Diane Hinrichs, Kim Cardwell, Dave McDanal, Daryle Klassen, and Bettie Greenberg

Absent: Hal Mansfield and Linda Benefiel

Guests: Chris Kanowitz - Senior Advisory Board, and Mark Mason.

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

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

Treasurer Report: John reported that as of July 31, the account had \$710.86 in it.

LIAISON REPORTS

Council: Daryle reported that Council has narrowed the number of applicants for the City Manager position to 3 people who will be brought in for interviews. An extensive program for the candidates has been developed, which includes interaction with citizens, staff, and a tour of the City. After this process, Council can, hopefully, make a determination.

On medical marijuana (MM), as suggested by both DAC and the Senior Advisory Board, Council decided to put the issue on the ballot. The State legislature has given the City ample room to regulate MM, if it passes. Daryle said that he would like to see regulations that help curb recreational use of MM. Daryle discussed what Council did to educate themselves on the issue and that Fort Collins planned to allow MM and not take the issue to a vote.

On statewide ballot issues, Daryle reminded people to educate themselves on amendments 60 and 61, and proposition 101. The new City Manager will have been on the job perhaps 30 days before the November elections. If any of these ballot initiatives pass, Daryle stated that the City will have 30-45 days to amend the 2011 budget and that there will be budget cuts. Daryle also noted that although the City has money for bricks-and-mortar projects, there is already a lack of money for ongoing operation and maintenance.

DRS: For good news, Dave relayed that a client that DRS helped won \$30,000 on a scratch-off lottery ticket and donated \$1,000 to DRS. Dave reported that this time of year is busy for DRS. What he is seeing most, and is getting worse, is homelessness. It is people in their 50's and 60's, families living in cars, etc. It is not just people with mental illness. Dave said there is not enough low income housing and there are waiting lists everywhere. DRS can still assist with things such as medication, transportation, and utilities, but can't do much to help people with housing.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Accessibility: Vic reported that on 7/19 they reviewed plans for Abarr Lake Chiropractic. Findings were that the handicap parking sign needed to indicate van accessible and be located at the center front of the parking space, and they questioned if locating the parking space in front of the garage door met spec. Vic said he

hasn't talked to the City's Building Division about this issue yet, and it is not known how the business will use the garage. It was also noted that the slope of the parking space must not exceed 1:50 in any direction. Counters must have one section 36" wide, 34" high. Handrails on stairs should be 4' between rails. The stairs have lips, but will be carpeted, so the carpet must slope from riser to tread.

Senior Advisory Board: Chris reported that on Oct. 9, a senior conference will be held on the ballot proposals at Mountain View Presbyterian Church.

Employment: Alexandra provided Bettie with a list of employers in the area that hire people with disabilities. Bettie will get this information added to DAC's website.

Parks and Rec: Vern has received some of the parks surveys that had been done. He also said that a Bike and Pedestrian Paths meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 15. The committee is about 75% through the documentation of the current bikes/pedestrian paths.

PR/Communication: As part of reaching out to the community, Diane wanted to know if she should try and find other places to meet. Members said yes. Dave mentioned that it is the 20th Anniversary of the ADA and that people need to try not to allow erosions to the gains made for people with disabilities.

OLD BUSINESS

On the seating at the Budweiser Events Center, members agreed to ask to see the facility during the day prior to a scheduled event to look at the seating set up. Kim volunteered to do the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Daryle discussed the 10 permit only parking spaces at the Museum. These reserved spaces anger him as he frequently hears about parking problems downtown. Moreover, the City urges private employers to get employees to park in outlying areas, yet Museum employees have 10 prime spots. Additionally, the signage doesn't even allow for after hours parking. Daryle said he plans on bringing this issue up.

Chris asked about the handicap parking at Art in the Park. People discussed that handicap parking existed for the Loveland Sculpture Invitational and the Sculpture in the Park, but nobody knew of specific parking for the Art in the Park. Chris said she planned on being the squeaky wheel on this subject.

Diane asked about what to do if she sees problems with sidewalks. Vern told her to contact Justin Stone. Discussion ensued that sidewalks are not always the responsibility of the City. Daryle mentioned that the amount that the City has for repairs and people's expectations are often out of line. The City cannot do everything that people think needs to be done.

Adjournment: Larry moved to adjourn the meeting; Vern seconded the motion. Motion approved.
Meeting adjourned: 7:02

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary