

Disabilities Advisory Commission  
Minutes July 12, 2010  
Loveland Museum Conference Room

Present: John Suess, Vic Beebe, Hal Mansfield, Vern Richardson, Linda Benefiel, Larry Abston, Alexandra Wittenmyer, Daryle Klassen, and Bettie Greenberg

Absent: Diane Hinrichs, Kim Cardwell, and Dave McDanal

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

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

Treasurer Report: No report. John said he hasn't received the statement yet.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Jessica and Susan from Can Do – Live Well Colorado. Jessica explained that Can Do is a coalition to promote activity and nutrition and to defeat obesity. Jessica reviewed the statistics for overweight and obesity in Colorado and nationally. Loveland has a good infrastructure in bike paths, parks, etc., but in Larimer County obesity has doubled in the last 10 years. Adults and children don't eat enough fruits and vegetables or get enough exercise. Less than 50% of high school students get 30 minutes of exercise daily and they should exercise 60 minutes. Physical Education has decreased over the 10 years along with recess time. Obesity can affect health and those effects are starting to show up in kids. For instance, 1 in 4 high school students has abnormal cholesterol. Can Do - Live Well Colorado is providing help to create a healthier environment by working in the following areas:

- **School Wellness:** Thompson Valley School District now has a Wellness Coordinator to promote healthier lifestyles.
- **Worksite Wellness:** Developed and provided resources and training to health care providers and training tools that health care providers can use with their patients.
- **Community Gardens:** Established a community garden at High Plains Environmental Center and food grown there is donated to the Food Bank. As a result, four community gardens have been established.
- **Active Communities:** Assisting the City with a bike and pedestrian plan to make it easier for people to walk/ride.
- **Faith-Based Organization:** Helping to start wellness programs.

Discussion ensued applauding this effort, but noting that the disabled population is not represented, *e.g.*, much of the physical activity in Loveland is geared toward seniors and educational materials need to be available in Braille. Linda brought up that she's heard from some parents that they are afraid to let their children walk to school or play in parks by themselves. Others thought that this was a false concern. It was stated, however, that even if that's the case, it's still an issue.

#### LIAISON REPORTS

Council: Daryle reported that the Flex bus to Longmont was introduced and that he forwarded to City Council Linda and Hal's wonderful essay and photo journal about their trip to Denver. On the City Manager search, the field has been narrowed to semi-finalists. Council will be conducting interviews tomorrow and Wednesday night via teleconferences. The finalists from these interviews will be brought in for face-to-face interviews. Daryle said that the Library, Chilson, and Downtown projects are all underway.

Daryle mentioned that Proposition 101 and Amendments 60 and 61 will be on the State's ballot in November and discussed the financial consequences if one or all of these initiatives pass, which will be drastic.

City Staff: None.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Accessibility: Vic passed around an invitation to the grand opening for the accessible trail at the Devil's Backbone this Saturday. No plans were reviewed or C.O. inspections done, since nothing is being built.

Employment: Hal said that Colorado Workforce is looking to do a job fair. Alexandra will follow up. She also said she has a list of employers that will hire people with disabilities, which she will give to Diane to give to Bettie so that this information can be added to the City's Disability Resources webpage. Alex also volunteered to follow up on employment discrimination questions at CSU, etc.

Parks and Rec: Vern said he attended the bike and pedestrian plan kickoff meeting on June 26. There was a bike tour and a pedestrian tour. He did the pedestrian tour (along with someone else in a wheelchair), which was around the downtown area. The participants on the pedestrian tour noticed sidewalks that dead-ended, cracked sidewalks, etc. At the meeting they discussed that parents don't consider the pathways safe and don't like to have their kids ride bikes or walk to school because of things like sidewalks ending forcing kids onto the streets. The group also discussed getting good pathways to Fort Collins. Linda mentioned that homeless people living along the recreational paths also keep people off them. Vern also mentioned that people at that meeting wondered what happened to the City's sidewalk repair program where the City would assist the owner with repair costs.

Transportation: Hal said that the NFRMPO meets this Thursday. The NFRMPO has a new strategic plan. They will be looking at how to spend Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) application money. It's not as much money as in past years. Hal said that he and Linda had a good trip to Denver using the Flex bus. The biggest issue was the RTD bus between Longmont and Denver, which had no leg room.

PR/Communication: No report.

Historian: Hal took pictures of Linda's and his trip to Denver using the Flex bus.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Regarding seating at events at the Budweiser Events Center, John thought that someone should attend an event and count the handicap seating.

#### NEW BUSINESS

On medical marijuana dispensaries in Loveland, Daryle asked if members preferred that City Council take the action to opt out and not allow them or take the decision to a vote of the people. Members expressed that they would rather see it on the ballot. Discussion ensued that if the City opts out there would be a citizen ballot initiative later, which would cost the City more in the long run.

Vern said that he went out and looked at the parking at the new Perkins and talked to his friend again about the parking at that location. There is enough handicap parking, but it's just not in an ideal location. The parking serves three store fronts.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned: 7:37

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary