

Disabilities Advisory Commission
Minutes June 14, 2010
Big Thompson Manor II – Community Room

Present: John Suess, Vic Beebe, Hal Mansfield, Diane Heinrich, Vern Richardson, Linda Benefiel, Daryle Klassen, Kim Cardwell, Dave McDanal, and Bettie Greenberg

Absent: Larry Abston and Alexandra Wittenmyer

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

Discussion with Big Thompson Manor Residents:

John explained DAC's purpose and how it operates and introduced DAC members and liaisons. John then opened up the discussion to the Big Thompson Manor (BTM) residents in attendance. Discussion ensued regarding the lack of parking at BTM, including handicap parking. Daryle opined that when the City expands parking at the Rec Center, it should reduce non-residents' use of BTM's parking lot. Several residents thought that the public doesn't understand that visitor parking is only for BTM and that the signs should be changed to state "Visitor Parking for Big Thompson Manor". DAC members mentioned that parking issues must be brought up with BTM's owners.

Motion: Daryle moved that DAC compose a letter to be sent to the owner (the Odd Fellows) seeking additional parking. Diane seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Hal said he had the Board Member information for the Odd Fellows. Residents then discussed the lack of enforcement on the parking rules. BTM does not have 24-hour management and even if residents complain, nothing is done. It was mentioned that the City cannot enforce parking in private lots.

Regarding accessibility, one resident stated that she often walks from BTM to Safeway and that there have been no sidewalk improvements in the 4 years that she has been making this trek. She mentioned that 4th Street by the Library is particularly bad. John and Vic said that they would check it out.

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

Treasurer Report: John reported .03 cents in interest and the current balance was \$710.79.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Council: Daryle said that Council is busy looking for a new City Manager as Don Williams will be leaving around September 1. The City received 59 applications. The City's Human Resource Director is leading the process rather than using a "headhunter", which saves money. Council is in the process of narrowing the field. Daryle mentioned that the budget process for 2011 is starting and that the City has some major projects in the works: I-25/Hwy 34 interchange, I-25 and Crossroads, and the Chilson and Library expansions. Because of the economy, the bids for these projects were lower than estimates. The City is also putting money into Loveland High School's swimming pool. With respect to the dispute regarding

the artwork for the Library and Chilson expansions, the City has re-opened the process to allow local artistw to bid on the project.

Daryle reported that revenue is 1.3% above budget projections. The bad news is that 2010 revenue projections were comparable to the revenue collected in 2007. Daryle discussed that although it looks like the City has significant resources with \$195 million in reserves, most of that funding is dedicated for capital projects and cannot be used for operation and maintenance (O&M). Moreover, the budget for O&M is actually decreasing. Finally, Daryle is inquiring about how the Human Services Commission determines funding for agencies. He is not questioning the decisions made, but rather he is looking at the decision-making process.

DRS: Dave explained that DRS is an independent living center and only serves people with disabilities. It was noted that many BTM residents had used the DRS loan closet. DRS also advocates for people with disabilities, *e.g.*, problems pertaining to landlord/tenants, parking, discrimination, etc. Emergency funding for needs such as prescriptions, housing, and moving expenses are also provided. Assistance with transportation needs and architectural barrier removal (providing wheelchair ramps, widening doors, etc.) is also provided. Dave discussed that in 3 of the last 4 years, the City has cut funding to DRS and they don't really know why or what they are going to do to continue serving the Loveland area. Finally, DRS staff provides a lot of information and referrals.

City Staff: None.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibility: Vic reported that Larimer County had asked the Accessibility Subcommittee to look at the accessibility of the Morrison Trail at the Devil's Backbone. The trail was built to U.S. Forest Service specifications and the slope is steeper than the ADA standard, so trail maintenance was a concern. John mentioned to Larimer County that DAC does Barrier Awareness training. As a result on Friday, June 11, training occurred at the trail. Diane passed out copies of the comments received from the participants. Linda said that the County will be putting informational material out on the trail and are looking at alternative media (audio or Braille) to understand what is in the area. Discussion ensued that audio is preferred by many, since many people with visual impairments do not read Braille. Linda mentioned that it became obvious to participants that benches along the trail were needed. It was also suggested to the County that the area leading from the trail to the restroom be paved.

Employment: Hal said that he had heard that the school districts in the area discriminated against people with disabilities by including in job descriptions physical abilities, such as sight and lifting requirements, for positions where these requirements were not essential functions of the job. Hal said he planned to write to the Department of Justice and the Department of Education.

Parks and Rec: Don Metzgar still needs to be contacted so DAC can obtain the parks surveys completed. Vern brought up that he had been told that the handicap parking at Perkins by Crossroads is an issue. Vic and John said that if they recalled, there were other shops that shared parking and there wasn't anything that could be done.

Vern reported that the Bicycles and Pedestrians Steering Committee is scheduled to meet June 26.

Transportation: Hal reported that the MPO is meeting this week and that the one-call center and the new Flex bus system to Longmont will probably be reviewed.

PR/Communication: The information was covered under the Accessibility Subcommittee.

Kim mentioned that by the Island Grille Restaurant the closest handicap parking spot is down by the doughnut shop.

Historian: Hal has pictures of the Barrier Awareness event with Larimer County. Diane said she would put the names of people shown on the back of the various photos.

OLD BUSINESS

Diane said that she received a response from the Budweiser Events Center stating that there was handicap seating in every category for events, but they were willing to meet with her. Discussion ensued that this statement is misleading. Although seating exists, for some events various seats are removed or blocked. Members of the Accessibility Subcommittee agreed to go with Diane to meet with staff at the Budweiser Event Center.

NEW BUSINESS

Diane said that a representative from Can Do - Live Well Colorado spoke to the Senior Advisory Commission on what the organization is trying to get the public to do to live well. Diane wanted to know if DAC members were interested in having someone from Live Well Colorado talk to DAC. Members said yes.

Adjournment: Linda motioned to adjourn. Hal seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned: 7:30

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary