

Disabilities Advisory Commission
Minutes May 10, 2010

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

Absent: Daryle Klassen, Kim Cardwell, Sharon Thomas, and Nancy Jones

Guests: Chris Kanowitz

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: John reported that as of April 30, the account had \$710.76 and it made .02 cents in April. Discussion ensued regarding why DRS handled DAC's money since the Senior Advisory Commission has its own account. Bettie said she'd look into how the SAC does its finances.

LIAISON REPORTS:

DRS: Dave reported that the Human Services Commission did not fund DRS again this year and DRS is trying to figure out what to do.

City Staff: Bettie reported that Bob Mouser resigned and that she heard from John Teumer that Zach has become involved in some other activities and will not be attending meetings. She reminded people whose terms are up in June that they need to reapply. Chris said she still intended to apply. Finally, Bettie reminded the group that starting next month, June, meetings will be held at the Museum.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibility: John, Vic, and Larry are meeting with Larimer County staff on Wednesday to look at the accessibility of a trail at Devil's Backbone. The meeting might not occur, however, due to the weather. The big concern is whether maintenance on the trail will be good enough to allow wheelchair users.

Also, a complaint was received from a woman (Virginia) about the lack of handicap parking at Willow Apartments. John, Vic, and Larry agreed that to put in an accessible parking space would eliminate one additional parking space in an already small lot. John talked to Virginia and said he'd write a letter to the owners, Neighbor to Neighbor. John passed around a draft letter, which asked for a van accessible space, although not required by law.

Employment: Alexandra said that she's ending her list of who is hiring and was inquiring what to do next. It was suggested that she provide it to Bettie who would see if she can get it added to DAC's webpage.

Parks and Rec: No report. Various members discussed contacting Don Metzger to obtain the Parks surveys that are in his possession.

Transportation: Hal passed around a riders' guide from the MPO. They are still looking at a one-call center to at least provide information on each agency and its phone number. Hal said May is a slow month and only 1 meeting was scheduled.

PR/Communication: Diane passed around the article that she wrote for Loveland 365 about the City's Boards & Commissions. She also had 2 copies of the AARP publication on health care reform and how it affects people. Diane passed around the final draft of a letter she wrote to Larimer County officials regarding handicap seating at the Budweiser Events Center. To promote community outreach, Diane reported that they still are looking at other locations where DAC could hold a meeting. One suggestion was Colorado Rehabilitation in Johnstown. Bettie said she'd look into whether or not it was okay to hold a meeting in Johnstown. Finally, Diane discussed the 4-sided display panel for DAC. One panel is for resources, another panel addresses interacting with people with disabilities, and the remaining 2 panels are TBA. The subcommittee wanted direction on whether DAC wanted to open up the currently empty panels to others. The group discussed that their preference was to use them and only allow others if DAC really can't fill the panels up.

Historian: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Bettie discussed that the City's vision statement included providing assistive technology resources and support to persons with disabilities, which doesn't appear to be on any of DAC's goals. DAC members did not express any interest in adding this goal to its list at this time.

John provided updated lists of the subcommittee members.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave said that a low vision group meeting on assistive technology is taking place on Wednesday and to call his office, if interested in attending. The meeting will be from 9:00 – 1:00.

Motion: Vic moved to send the letter to Neighbor to Neighbor on adding a van accessible parking place at Willow Apts. Vern seconded. Motion approved.

Vern said that the steering committee on pedestrians and bicycles hasn't met yet.

Adjournment: Alexandra motioned to adjourn. Larry seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned: 6:45

Respectfully Submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary