

**Disabilities Advisory Commission  
Minutes February 8, 2010**

Present: John Suess, Vic Beebe, Alexandra Wittenmyer, Nancy Jones, Hal Mansfield, Larry Abston, Daryle Klassen, Dave McDanal, and Bettie Greenberg.

Absent: Kim Cardwell, Bob Mouser, Diane Traylor, Sharon Thomas, Linda Benefiel, and Vern Richardson.

Guests: Marcy Abreo(City of Loveland Transit), Officer Dave Sloat, Chris Kanowitz (Senior Advisory Board), John Teumer, and Zach Wood

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

Approval of the Minutes: Under the Housing subcommittee report, the word “commendations” should be “recommendations”. Also, Alexandra requested that her proper name be used rather than Alex.

- Motion: Larry moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Hal seconded it. Motion approved.

Treasurer’s Report: John reported that the account earned .02 cents and is now \$710.70.

**GUEST PRESENTATIONS**

City of Loveland Transit: Marcy Abreo distributed the draft paratransit report, which provides service options. The paratransit system is at maximum capacity. COLT needs to make changes in order to serve people with disabilities and comply with the ADA within the City’s fiscal constraints and is recommending:

1. Raising the eligibility age for seniors using paratransit to 70.
2. Adding in a senior shuttle for medical appointments, grocery stores, etc.
3. Requiring that people with disabilities meet the ADA requirements. The City would continue to serve people that meet the ADA requirements of mobility limitations within City boundaries.

Marcy stated that the public comment received was very low. The recommendations need to be taken to City Council. Marcy asked that DAC members let Daryle know if they are in favor of the recommendations.

Lock Box Program: Dave Sloat reviewed the Police Department’s Lock Box Program, which allows Fire, Paramedics, and Police to enter a house if a resident isn’t able to get to the door. PD loans the lock boxes, which cost approximately \$30 a piece, free of charge. To qualify for this program, a person must be a resident of the City or the surrounding area and have an injury, illness, or disability - either permanent or temporary - that prevents him/her from getting to the door. There are no age requirements. A waiver, however, must be signed. Currently, 150 lock boxes have been placed in the City with 30 people on the waiting list. PD recently received an additional 70 lock boxes and will be installing them for those on the waiting list.

Dave explained that only Police, Fire, or the Paramedics can access the lock boxes and that only the Police maintain the combinations to the boxes. Owners do not receive the

combination. How it works is that when a call comes into dispatch, it is flagged as “medical caution” and the lock box combination is provided via the computer to the emergency responder. The resident is checked on and the lock box put back in place. The location of the lock box is provided via computer along with the combination, the person’s name, if there are dogs, etc. Boxes are placed so that they are accessible by emergency personnel. If a resident is uncomfortable with who accessed his/her house, someone from PD can come by and change the lock.

For people interested in being on the list to receive a lock box, contact Dave Sloat. Discussion ensued that PD does not permit a person to buy a box and have it installed because PD cannot control security. Money could be donated to the Fraternal Order of Police and earmarked for this purpose; however, to avoid any appearance of impropriety PD cannot take donations directly. Dave said he’s been going to businesses, such as Lowe’s and Home Depot, for donations and he is applying for a grant. Dave said he can take referrals.

This information is also on the Police Department’s webpage on the City’s website.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

City Council: Daryle reported that members of Council interviewed applicants for the Community Marketing Commission. There were 28 applicants and 7 were picked along with 3 alternates to serve on the commission. The commission will be developing a marketing plan for the estimated \$350,000-\$400,000 annual budget from the lodging sales tax.

As for the City’s budget, people are looking how to do more for less. December’s sales tax was down approximately 11%, but the City is still in better shape than many others due to its history of conservative budgeting practices. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not the City’s use of consultants is necessary. Daryle mentioned that further budget cuts were discussed. He also stated that the library expansion is likely. Daryle updated DAC on the status of a swimming pool at Loveland High School. The school board has \$1 million in hand for the pool renovation’s projected cost of \$3 million. The city has pledged \$1 million to match the fund raising efforts of the public, which effort is falling short at this point.

City Staff: Bettie said that Solid Waste staff would like to attend the next meeting to discuss their proposed plan for pickup for the elderly and disabled. Bettie reported that a meeting on the library expansion project is scheduled for February 17 at 9:00 in the library. John and Larry will be attending. Zach said he’d like to attend, too. Vic said he was a maybe. Bettie said she would get a larger set of plans for review as the Accessibility Subcommittee could not print the plans in a format large enough to read.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Accessibility: No report.

Employment: No report.

Housing: No report.

Parks & Rec: No report.

Transportation: Hal said that the Northern Front Range Metro Planning Organization (MPO) is still looking at a one-call center for transportation services. They are trying to decide if it will be for information, information and referral, or information and dispatch. Hal stated he thought that it would be informational at first. No matter what, it will require a lot of training for the people involved. They are looking at other agencies in the U.S. that have one-call systems to find out how those agencies do it and how they are funded.

PR/Communication: No report.

Historian: No report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Members agreed to discuss subcommittees and assignments at the next meeting.

Hal mentioned that the MPO meets monthly meets the third Thursday of every month from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. at the MPO offices (419 Canyon Avenue, Suite 300, Fort Collins) and anyone is welcome to attend.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Hal moved to adjourn. Alexandra seconded the motion. Motion approved. Adjourned: 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully,

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary