

Disabilities Advisory Commission Minutes March 14, 2016

Present: Taylor Summer, Vern Richardson, Zach Wood, John Teumer, John Suess Dave McDanel, and Bettie Greenberg

Absent: Karlee Keller, Chris Kanowitz, B.J. Michels, and Rich Ball

Meeting Called to Order: 6:02 p.m.

Minutes: Taylor moved to approve the minutes; Zach seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Reports

ARC: Taylor distributed information on the ARC Film Festival and their newsletter, which announced the winner of the Film Festival: Zach Wood. Taylor reported that their office is moving and discussed ARC's support groups. ARC is becoming more visible in the community.

DRS: Dave discussed the tightness of the rental market in the area, which contributes to the problem of homelessness. He relayed a story of a tenant evicted that he was able to resolve due to the extenuating circumstances. DRS doesn't often go to bat for people being evicted.

Tasks

Disabilities Awareness Event: Zach and John T. talked about the program that they held for staff February 23 at

Carrie Martin elementary. Linda Benefeld helped. The program was one hour long. People were broken into groups of 3 for 20 minutes each. One group focused on getting to know students. Don't prejudge. Linda did a demonstration on blindness with having people go to the board to write something. The third session covered how to make classrooms more accessible. People used wheelchairs to get a better idea of obstacles; e.g.; blocked pathways. John T. said that they received feedback that the training had been eye-opening. One teacher rearranged his room.

The next day, students attended a session. Each class cycled through the Library. Everybody read Abby Goes to the Farm and Zach answered questions on disabilities. Linda brought information on guide dogs.

Other Business

Zach and John T. attended the Inclusion Conference in Denver.

Boards & Commission Summit: John S. and Taylor said it was a good time. There was a glitch with DAC's presentation. Taylor had to wing it, but it was fine.

Other A group of parents with children with visual impairments is meeting regularly at the Library. The City's sculpture collection at Benson Park have Braille signage.

Bettie will work with the Library to get a Braille copy of some of Zach's books for their collection.

Adjournment: Zach moved to adjourn; John S. seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Adjourned: 07:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary