

Disabilities Advisory Commission Minutes
Sept 14 2015

Present: Zach Wood, John Teumer, Vern Richardson, Chris Kanowitz, B.J. Michels, John Suess, Chauncey Taylor, and Bettie Greenberg

Others Present: Dawn Choate-Sakes, Arc of Larimer County, and Dianna Irwin

Absent: Dave McDanel, Karlee Keller

Meeting Called to Order: 6:05 p.m.

Minutes: Zach W. moved to approve the minutes; John T. seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Liaison Reports:

City Council: Chauncey discussed the status of the Downtown Catalyst Project. There is some pushback about not locating the Larimer County building downtown, since it doesn't produce revenue. He also reported that the Highway 34 Coalition is forming to look at road improvements from Hwy 287 to east of the I-25 interchange area; however, the I-25/34 interchange would require the City to provide matching funds, and it is unclear how the City could fund that project. Chauncey reported that the Police Training facilities is still moving forward; however, Fort Collins has not committed to the project. Discussion ensued regarding what would happen, if Fort Collins does not participate in the project. He also mentioned that a workshop was being held for property owners on Hwy 402, which is a potential growth area in Loveland. Finally, Chauncey said that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Rivers Edge Natural Area is being held September 24.

City Staff: Bettie reported that she received an email from a citizen wanting to serve on DAC, but the meeting time presents a problem. The citizen said she cannot drive due to a disability and the buses do not run past 6:00 p.m. Members discussed other options, such as Dial-a-Taxi. Bettie agreed to research the matter and see if there are after-hours options available.

Bettie also mentioned that the Library received a complaint about the lack of Braille materials for children. The Library's procedure had been to refer people to the Talking Book Library through the Library of Congress. The Library will now complement that service and is in the process of obtaining more Braille books, particularly for children. Discussion ensued that the Library should also help families access the Talking Books Library, since not everyone has access to the Internet. Bettie also mentioned that the Library has a Braille printer, which can be used by the public. Zach offered to translate (on the City's printer) and donate his children's book Abby Goes to the Farm (about a little girl that is blind) to the Library.

Tasks:

DAC Webpage and Brochure Modifications: Reviewed changes to DAC's webpage and DAC's revised business cards. Members had no changes to the cards. A few changes to the webpage still need to be made. Members requested that corrected copies be provided before the next meeting. Once the content for DAC's webpage is finalized, the brochure will be done to mirror the webpage.

Disabilities Awareness Events: The Library is interested in participating in an event. Chauncey suggested inviting members of the Construction Advisory Board. People discussed trying to get a school involved and that the Principal is the person to approach. Vern said he'd check with his contacts at the Thompson School District. Dawn said that she'd see if Arc would like to participate.

Outreach: No one attended the last Senior Advisory Board meeting. Chauncey said that he had sent DAC members an invitation to the AARP Walkability Event on September 29 at the Museum. The event starts at 8:30, with workshops starting at 10:45. Lunch will be served.

Other Business:

Members discussed next month's agenda:

- Invite someone from either the Housing Authority or the Building Division to conduct a presentation to DAC.
- Review revised draft of DAC's website and brochure.
- Taylor will present information on visual impairments

John S. inspected the handicapped parking at the 29th Street King Sooper's to follow up on a citizen's complaint. The store is in compliance. There is just not enough parking. John will follow up with the citizen.

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

Adjourned: 07:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bettie Greenberg, Secretary