

COLUMBIA DISABILITIES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 25, 2013
City Hall Conference Room 2A; 701 East Broadway

1. Called to order by Chair, Homer Page, at 3:00 p.m.

2. Introductions:

Members: Lee Henson, Homer Page, Cheryl Price, Sean Spence, Kathleen Weinschenk and Dawn Zeterberg

Excused Absence: Lisa Zanetti

Unexcused Absence: Marcie Luebbert, Christy Brookins, Hazel Fields, Mike Peplow, Dovie Weston,

Staff and Other Attendees:

Tony St. Romaine, Deputy City Manager
Heather Cole, City Manager's Office
Sara Snodderly, Service for Independent Living
Michael Trapp, City Council Ward 2
Gary Kespohl, City Council Ward 3
Gretchen Maune

3. Additions to Agenda

None.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

5. New Business

Recommendation to Council on surplus funds for ADA projects

Mr. Page explained that there is a \$1.9 million surplus on the FY14 budget and the Disability Commission had been asked to make recommendations to Council on priority projects. Mr. St. Romaine explained the Transition Plan; it focuses on facilities, sidewalks and streets, and program accessibility. About a year and a half ago there was a detailed review completed on all City facilities for ADA updates; there was about \$1.2 million worth of updates needed to be completely ADA accessible. Each year funds are appropriated for these projects.

He briefly explained where many issues were located and advised that as crews have time, progress is being made on all the Parks. City staff visited with a group a few months ago and created a list of priority sidewalk projects. He highlighted points of interest that could be projects to prioritize into the list: Worley and Park DeVille area is not pedestrian friendly; improved pedestrian facilities at Fairview and Worley; improved barricades for Stadium Corridor; improve Para-Transit services for extended weekday and weekend services; bus shelter improvements; ramp or lift for the Dinner Train; and, a pilot project for auditory pedestrian signals.

Mr. Page brought up the issue on on-street disabled parking in the Downtown area; this needed to be added to the priority list. Mr. Henson advised the group needed to limit the items that were in the Transition Plan since they have already been identified and planned for and have already been provided to staff and Council. He inquired if on-street parking was included in the Transition Plan and Mr. St. Romaine did not believe they had been and did not think that including these in the plan.

The group discussed the cost of the first few items on the list and if they were included in the Transition Plan. Most of these items are not included in the Plan; a pool lift for the ARC is estimated at \$10,000.00. He did not have estimates for the other items.

Next, the group discussed the goal for the meeting. Mr. Page explained that the outcome of this meeting should produce a memo to Council recommending projects to be considered that fit within a certain funding limit. The funding limit being aimed for should be at or around \$300,000; this number is roughly 15 percent of the total amount and is conservative and appropriate to the number of people in the Disabilities community. The group felt this was a good estimate.

Gretchen Maune made a presentation to the group. She advised that projects that help people with disabilities help everyone in the community. Increasing the amount of funding would be great to argue for because the number of people with disabilities is increasing, especially with the aging community and baby boomers. Curb cuts help parents with strollers and those with luggage. She also stated that audible pedestrian signals help everyone and many are designed with universal design concepts. Traffic flow runs smoother as all people are more receptive and reactionary to audible tones. She distributed a handout on audible pedestrian signals in general and why they are beneficial to all pedestrians.

Mr. Spence suggested creating a priority list and allocate funding to those projects. These projects would be one time capital expenditures. Ms. Weinschenk stated that this information would take her suggestion of later Para-transit hours off the list; Mr. St. Romaine advised it would be best to leave it on there and create a pilot project to see what needs are that would cost around \$5,000-10,000.

Mr. Page asked the Commission members for projects they would like added to the priority list.

Ms. Zeterberg suggested a sidewalk on Clark Lake. Mr. Kespohl advised that according to Staff, this was already in the design stage.

Ms. Price agreed with Ms. Weinschenk on the need for a pilot project for Para-transit and also, not just staying with projects in the Transition Plan, but also a few items for the list to update and make safer intersections in town. Her priority would be a marked, lighted crosswalk at Fairview and Worley and Fairview and Ash.

Mr. Henson was guided by what Mr. Page and St. Romaine thought as far as priorities go, assuming that the Transition Plan would be discussed at a later time.

Mr. Spence agreed with suggestions already made and added pool lifts at municipal pools, pay to convert Downtown parking spaces to accessible and safe, roll-able surfaces at park playgrounds.

Mr. Page suggested pool modifications at the ARC and adding at least two audible traffic signal locations and also include bus shelter upgrades.

The group agreed they did not want to include the Dinner Train on the list.

The group briefly discussed the suggestions and cost estimates for them. They discussed which intersections should have audible signals; Walnut and Broadway rather than College and Broadway since the street has many ADA housing units and many people with disabilities crossing.

Mr. Kespohl advised that Para-transit costs more to run than the City charges. The cost estimate associated with the pilot project should be closer to the actual cost, not the cost for riders. Mr. Henson suggested limiting the pilot project to Council meeting; Mr. Page did not expect enough high demand to need to restrict it to Council meetings. Mr. Henson withdrew his suggestion.

Mr. Kespohl commented on the direction of the meeting and felt the priority list is the way to go and the items on the list are well known. He stated that there are other items that are pulling for funding as well; street resurfacing would pull heavily on those funds. He advised the best thing to develop the list and make recommendations, but Council will have to determine how to spend the funds. Mr. Trapp agreed with Mr. Kespohl's comments.

The group held a brief discussion on park surfaces and re-mulching. Mr. St. Romaine stated that mulch is already included in the plan, but not rubber due to costs. Rubber tends to cost more but lasts longer; \$28,000 estimate for rubber mulch for Parkade Park.

Mr. St. Romaine and Mr. Page agreed to write the letter together to be sent to Council. The Commission members could prioritize the list to send to Council.

Mr. Page announced that the top three priorities would be downtown parking, then pilot for Para-transit, and audible traffic signals. After the top three the last would be alphabetized. Mr. Henson disagreed with this method of alphabetization of remaining priorities; he explained that costs should be considered too. Mr. Spence added that in the report it should state that the preference of the Commission is to complete as many projects as possible.

The agreed upon list is as follows:

- 1) Add Downtown on-street accessible parking spaces;
- 2) Pilot project to extend Para-transit for City meetings;
- 3) Pilot for pedestrian signals;
- 4) Safe and roll-able playground surfaces;

With the remaining projects listed in no particular order:

- Washboard safety islands at Worley;
- Lighted crosswalks at Fairview and Worley;
- Improved barricades at Stadium Corridor Projects (Removed as it is included in the MoDot project);
- Accessible bus shelter replacements and improvements;
- Pool modifications at the ARC;
- Pool lifts at municipal pools.

Ms. Maune suggested including website accessibility to the City's website. Mr. Page did not feel that needed to be added to the list since its being worked on by City staff. Most of the website issues were considered to be a staff training issue and could be addressed within the City; PDFs have caused issues and are continually being worked on by staff.

6. Public Comments

None.

7. Announcements

None.

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned approximately 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Cole
Assistant to the City Manager