



**The Mayor's Council for People with Disabilities**  
**2101 O'Neil Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82001**

**Monthly Meeting: January 8, 2025, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order: 11:30 a.m.**

**Roll Call/Attendance:**

- Board Members Present: Tom Gallagher, Rebecca Millett, Kristy Richardson, Patti Riesland, Teresa Simkins-Aris, Amy Simpson, Gregg Smith, Julie Tucker, Michelle Woerner
- Board Members Absent: none
- Establish quorum: Yes – 9 of 9 members attending
- Council Liaison: Pete Laybourn, Councilperson
- City Personnel: Amber Ash, Chief of Staff
- Guest(s): Sophia Maes, Downtown Development Authority

**2. Approval of Minutes:** December 2025 - unanimous approval

**3. Treasurer's Report:**

- a. Jonah Bank \$9,392.13
- b. Expenditures in the last month: none

**4. Announcements:**

- a. Sophia Maes, Downtown Development Authority: Sidewalk program 50/50 match – postcards have been sent to property owners, also posted on their Facebook, property owners are required by law to maintain their sidewalks

**5. Speakers/Presentation:** Sam Shumway, Wyoming State Director AARP

- a. Social Security trust fund only 2<sup>nd</sup> to Medicare, established 1935, never missed payments in all these years, estimate that by 2035 trust fund will be short, estimated payments 80%, due to longer lives and lower birth rates will have less workers paying into trust fund, need to find solution. Workers earn benefits through paying FICA, 40 credits = 10 years of work, 6.2% for employee deduction and employer, we earn this, 69 million people on social security over ½ of households 65 years and older SS is 50% of their income, in Wyoming 126,109 people on ss adds 2.7 billion to our economy, 50% of income for 41,701 households
- b. Public sentiment – 87% of people think Congress should act NOW – 5 proposed solutions
  - i. Eliminate or raise wage cap
  - ii. Increase payroll taxes – 1 to 2 % could have dramatic impact
  - iii. Raise retirement age – currently for people born after 1960 retirement

- iv. Reduce payments for high-income earners, base on assets at retirement
- v. Use other funding
- c. Resources: Council for Economic Education, American Academy of Actuaries, AARP.org/social security – can ask any questions
- d. AARP is fighting to protect Social Security, is part of the conversations in Washington D.C.
- e. Very few people are setting up personal retirement accounts and saving for their older years.

## **6. New Business:**

- a. Bylaws –
  - i. Revisions were sent to all MCPD members on December 24, 2025
  - ii. There were no questions or comments by board members
  - iii. Julie Tucker moved to accept the changes as submitted, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rebecca Millett – VOTE was unanimous by all members
- b. Thank you to Michelle Woerner for her 9 years of service on the MCPD and also serving as Vice-Chairperson for many years, she has been an actively involved member and has also worked with the Cheyenne Frontier Days committee to improve access at Frontier Park for disabled persons, along with using her staff from K9's for Mobility to help out during Frontier Days.
- c. Welcome to new officers: Amy Simpson as the Vice-Chairperson and Tom Gallagher as Treasurer
- d. Reports: (attached at the end of the minutes, if noted)
  - i. AARP – see attached
  - ii. City Council – no report
  - iii. Cheyenne Frontier Days – no report
  - iv. Downtown Development Authority (DDA) – see attached
  - v. Finance Committee -see attached
  - vi. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – no report
  - vii. Planning Commission – see attached
  - viii. Parking and Sidewalk – no report
  - ix. Public Services Committee - see attached
  - x. Safe Streets 4 All – no report
  - xi. Transit – no report
  - xii. Visit Cheyenne – see attached
  - xiii. Wyoming Independent Living – no report
  - xiv. Wyoming Legislature – no report
- e. Liaisons for 2026
  - i. AARP – Julie Tucker
  - ii. Affordable Housing Task Force – Tom Gallagher
  - iii. City Council – Teresa Simkins-Aris
  - iv. Cheyenne Frontier Days – Gregg Smith, Julie Tucker, Michelle Woerner

- v. Downtown Development Authority (DDA) – Julie Tucker
- vi. Finance Committee - Patti Riesland
- vii. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – Kristy Richardson
- viii. Planning Commission – Kristy Richardson
- ix. Parking and Sidewalk – Patti Riesland, Amy Simpson, Julie Tucker
- x. Public Services Committee – Gregg Smith
- xi. Safe Streets 4 All – Kristy Richardson
- xii. Transit – Rebecca Millett
- xiii. Visit Cheyenne – Julie Tucker
- xiv. Wyoming Independent Living – Julie Tucker
- xv. Wyoming Legislature – Julie Tucker

**7. Old /Continuing Business:**

- a. Safety Symposium – The group decided on a weekend date, Saturday, September 12, 2026
  - i. Venue committee: Tom Gallagher, Rebecca Millett, Patti Riesland, Amy Simpson, Gregg Smith – need venue with food, ADA access and restrooms, and plenty of parking
- b. Reports and/or comments from members about training available through Rocky Mountain ADA <https://rockymountainada.org> – Rebecca Millett attended a training

**8. Member or Public Comments - none**

**9. Upcoming meeting dates:**

- a. February 5th, executive board meeting
- b. February 12th, monthly board meeting

**10. Adjournment: 12:49 pm**

## **Reports for January 8, 2026 MCPD Meeting**

AARP: Some of the things they are working on in the Legislature:

- SNAP (food stamps) will need \$3.4 million from our legislature in order to keep going.
- Property tax...is not collected by the state. 68 cents goes to K-12 education, 17 cents goes to county governments. The rest goes to special districts.
- Protecting citizens from crypto scams...crypto kiosks or crypto ATMs are ripe for scams that have the user transferring money into cryptocurrency that cannot be reversed.
- EMS Services
- 10 voting bills are back this year that did not pass last year
- Electricity in regard to Data Centers
- The budget session is this year

Downtown Development Authority (DDA): This was a work session instead of a regular meeting.

- The Reed Avenue Project was discussed starting with a history of the land. In 1908 the city gave the corridor to the railroad. The city has been trying to work with the railroad for the last 10 years. A landscaping plan was sent to the railroad so they could see what was proposed. The railroad wanted another road closure. Businesses were not in favor.
- The Sidewalk Improvement Plan: The city official who works with the project asked for areas that need to be fixed stating maybe they could get help from 1% money. Clarification will be solicited from the city attorney on the ordinances with a possible change to them.

Finance Committee

- Approval of 3% COLA for PD employees.
- Discussion on the relisting/sale/potential demolition of the The Old Pumphouse postponed until 1/12/26.
- Purchase of 10 mobile radios for 10 new PD vehicles for \$82,600 and 10 in-car cameras for \$96,974 for the same vehicles.

Planning Commission and recent planning projects

- Annexations for area from Storey Blvd to Dell Range Blvd and Powderhouse Rd east to Converse with some additional areas in the Buffalo Ridge area, zoning district is in process to getting final approval from City Council.
- Accessory Dwelling Unit – code changes are in progress to make it easier for property owners to add units to existing property (without the owner occupancy requirement). This will potentially create more units that are affordable in the city.

### Public Services Committee

- Continued annexations of properties in north Cheyenne for major developments which will include apartments, duplexes, townhomes, cottage homes, and single-family homes. Discussion regarding affordable housing projects.
- Amended Ordinance to allow the Building Inspector and/or Fire Department to inspect properties for possible fire and/or safety issues in order to verify the condition of said properties.

### Visit Cheyenne

- Rides for different tours are up and so is lodging.
- Possible Sponsorships: CFD Old West Museum for a new exhibit - Brody Cress - CFD Silver Boot
- Approximately 150 Trades Workers are being bussed up from Colorado as Cheyenne is so short of them.