



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

Minutes for Meeting: February 12, 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, Patti Riesland, Christina Ruffatti, Teresa Simkins-Aris, Amy Simpson, Gregg Smith, Julie Tucker, Michelle Woerner
- Board Members Absent: Kristy Richardson
- Establish quorum: Yes – 9 of 10 members attending
- Council Liaison: Pete Laybourn, Councilperson – not present
- City Personnel: Amber Ash, Chief of Staff – not present
- Guest(s): none

2. Approval of Minutes: January 2026 - unanimous approval

3. Treasurer's Report:

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

4. Announcements:

- a. Welcome to our new member, Christina Ruffatti!

5. Speaker/Presentation: Debra Lee, County Clerk, Laramie County

- a. One of Ms. Lee's most memorable assignments was working in Lebanon with an organization fighting for the rights of people with disabilities (PWD) to access polling places. She helped them secure funding for a national campaign to raise public awareness of the struggles PWD face in trying to exercise their right to vote. The theme of that campaign was, "Your right is my right."
- b. Statistics
 - i. Baby Boomers are getting older. Wyoming has the fastest growing aging/elderly population in the nation, and senior citizens are the fastest growing group in Laramie County. Voters age 65 and older make up the greatest percentage of Laramie County voters—34%. The next highest category is those 50 to 64. In addition, 15% of Wyoming's population has a disability.

- ii. 2015 Statistic predicted that by 2030, 30 to 35% of all voters will need some assistance at the polling place—seating, wheelchair accessibility, and easy to read instructions.
- c. ADA Compliant Equipment: Laramie County’s election equipment is fully ADA compliant. Federal law requires that there is at least one accessible voting machine at each polling location. In addition, all counties use a Ballot Marking Device (BMD). In Laramie County, as we have done for more than two decades, ALL voters- regardless of ability or disability—use the same voting equipment that allows each voter to vote independently and privately.
- d. Flexible voting options for all voters
 - i. Absentee or mail ballot voting with a secure ballot drop box, which is under 24-hour surveillance, to return their ballot in a timely manner to the clerk, Early and satellite voting. Nearly 6000 voters used the drop box in 2022 and 2024. Ballots are personally and securely delivered to the courthouse where they are transferred by bipartisan election staff to the custody of the clerk.
 - ii. If you choose to vote at home, you can request your absentee mail ballot NOW by calling our office –name, address, date of birth, and party affiliation.
 - iii. We have early voting in the Atrium of the Laramie County Complex, satellite voting on the weekends at the Laramie County Library, in Burns and in Albin. Laramie County has the best election website in the state and lots of information on registration, voting, and election results. Click on the Elections button at laramiecountyyw.gov.
- e. Important dates:
 - i. Primary election: August 18, 2026
 - ii. Last day to change party affiliation before Primary: May 13, 2026
 - iii. Early Voting for Primary: July 21-August 17; General Election Sept 18 through Nov. 3
- f. In conclusion, Wyoming has a well-earned record of conducting elections that are fair, accurate accountable and transparent. Votes are recorded on paper ballots that can be reviewed by voters and are audited after the election to ensure the accuracy of our equipment. Voting is your right and responsibility. Exercise the right!

6. New Business:

- a. Safety Symposium
 - i. Volunteers for Co-Chairs Tom Gallagher and Christina Ruffatta
 - ii. Patti reported that the event is scheduled at LCCC for September 12th from 10:30 to 3:30 in the Pathfinder Room. \$400 includes set-up, take down, round tables with tablecloths, chairs.
 - iii. Patti said that she requested that a light lunch including sandwiches, chips, fruit and beverages be served, preferably in a buffet style.

- b. Free ADA webinar – NE ADA Center, March 3, 2026, 11 am MST - Is that a Service Animal? What Rights Apply Where? (click on the following link to register) <https://events.yangtaninstitute.org/e/11377/register>
- c. Reports: (attached at the end of the minutes, if noted)
 - 1) AARP –
 - 2) Affordable Housing Committee – no report
 - 3) City Council – see attached
 - 4) Cheyenne Frontier Days – no report
 - 5) Downtown Development Authority (DDA) – see attached
 - 6) Finance Committee -see attached
 - 7) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – no report
 - 8) Planning Commission – see attached
 - 9) Parking and Sidewalk – no report
 - 10) Public Services Committee - see attached
 - 11) Safe Streets 4 All – no report
 - 12) Transit – see attached
 - 13) Visit Cheyenne – no report
 - 14) Wyoming Independent Living – see attached
 - 15) Wyoming Legislature – no report

7. Old /Continuing Business:

- a. Reports and/or comments from members about training available through Rocky Mountain ADA <https://rockymountainada.org> – Rebecca Millett attended a training “Advocating for People with Intellectual Disabilities.” Because she works part-time at the jail, discussion followed concerning incarcerated individuals with intellectual disabilities and deaf individuals in jail needing appropriate advocates

8. Member or Public Comments – none

- a. Michelle Woerner reported that K 9’s 4 Mobility will be offering “Puppy Kisses” on Valentine’s Day.

9. Upcoming meeting dates:

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

10. Adjournment: 12:49 pm

Reports for February 12, 2026 MCPD Meeting

- 1) AARP
 - a. Monitoring these bills so far: voting, property tax, 911(SF32), affordable housing (SF64), Medicaid EMS reimbursement (SF4) and Crypto Kiosks (HB75)
- 2) Affordable Housing Committee – no report
- 3) City Council
 - a. Administrative Inspection Warrants:
 - i. 12 community members spoke out against Inspection Warrants
 - ii. Seeking input for a corrected/revised version
 - iii. Action: Postponed to February 9, 2026
 - b. Annexing tracts of land located south of Storey Boulevard and east of Powerhouse Road, North of Dell Range and West of Ridge Road: Approved
 - c. Established the Official Zoning Map of the above tracts of land to Agriculture and Medium Density Residential
 - d. Adopted a resolution establishing the City of Cheyenne’s prioritized list of projects proposed for potential inclusion on the One Percent Specific Purpose Sales and Use Tax Ballot
 - e. Approved resolution to annex area south of the intersection of Westland Road and Missile Drive, north of West and East Allison Road, and east of and adjacent to North College Drive.
 - f. Adopted a resolution authorizing the submission of an application by the City of Cheyenne for state funding for the Office of State Lands and Investments Unmet Housing Grant
 - g. Adopted resolution authorizing funding from Office of State Lands and Investments for Rodeo Grounds Pedestrian Transportation Infrastructure Grant in conjunction with Cheyenne Frontier Days Committee
 - h. Approved preliminary plat for Dry Creek Vista, located northeast of the intersection of Frank Court and Rock Springs Street
 - i. Approved the appointment of Mike Beitz to the Laramie County Community Juvenile Services Joint Powers Board and Christina Ruffatti to the Mayor’s Council for People with Disabilities.
- 4) Cheyenne Frontier Days – no report
- 5) Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
 - a. 2 grants were applied for and 3 more are expected to be turned in using the leftover Covid money
 - b. The Open Door Studio has opened at 1609 Central-the owner has applied for a grant to put up a new awning
 - c. The DDA has received an expansion petition for the property at 2100 Snyder, they are interested in joining the DDA
 - d. Alleys were discussed-there is no funding now-they’re expensive and they’re a safety issue
 - e. The downtown 250th on the 4th will feature a parade and activities all day and into the evening
- 6) Finance Committee
 - a. Bid for Parsley Blvd extension to tie in sidewalk to the Greenway.

- b. Bid for drainage on N. Cheyenne Community Park to eradicate mosquito problem.
 - c. Contract modification on widening and improvement of WYDOT/US-30/Whitney Rd/Del Range.
 - d. Contract for Phase 1 of Dry Creek Restoration Project on Meadowland, Holmes, and Henderson ditches
- 7) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – no report
- 8) Parking and Sidewalk meeting with Engineering – no report
- 9) Planning Commission and recent planning projects
 - a. Village Cooperative Plat – Powderhouse Rd north of Life Care Center, plat, 54-unit senior (62+) community, secure parking garage, activity rooms, manager, maintenance - approved
 - b. Village Cooperative Rezone – approved
 - c. County Pocket Annexation #10 – discussion from public about one particular agricultural parcel (owner has concerns) – approved with minor change
 - d. Bison Business Park zoning map amendment - approved
- 10) Public Services Committee
 - a. Mayor Collins reported on the Amended Ordinance to allow the Chief Building Official, Fire Marshall and/or Fire Chief to inspect commercial properties for possible fire and/or safety issues after a fire, commercial building fire inspections, property owner building follow-ups and abandoned buildings in order to verify the condition of said properties.
- 11) Safe Streets 4 All Committee – no report, still in process, next meeting to be determined, information on webpage https://www.plancheyenne.org/safe-streets-4-all/?et_fb=1&PageSpeed=off
- 12) Transit Board
 - a. Website is being redesigned for better user access
 - b. Ridership – numbers are holding steady, northwest route has highest ridership, Paratransit (ADA) ridership has increased, on demand has decreased due to fixed routes being utilized
 - c. Next meeting April 9, 2026
- 13) Visit Cheyenne – no report
- 14) Wyoming Independent Living
 - a. 2 WIL members are hosting a podcast about people with disabilities
 - b. The WIL Peer Advocacy Conference will be held in Casper August 12-14
- 15) Wyoming Legislature – no report (see AARP for bills being monitored)