

Date: 16 August 2023

Location: [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83848943667?pwd=a0hCYmZSTkNGWG40UGp4YjlKeEdYdz09)

Present:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Board Members | Cody Bair, PresidentShane Clark, TreasurerGary Van Dorn, SecretarySusie D’Mello, Board MemberNate Hecker, Board Member |
| Members | Bishohy FargellaEliza PortugalMonique MeltonLisa BondersonAudrey MarquezDishon SpeersZack Parks |
| Guests | Elizabeth SprecherKevan Worley |

1. Introductions
	1. President Cody Bair called the meeting to order at 18:04 MT.
	2. Cody said Board Members Ileen Gallegos and Andrea Fowler are unable to attend this evening’s meeting.
	3. Cody asked those present to introduce themselves.
2. Minutes from July 19, 2023, Secretary Gary Van Dorn
	1. President Cody Bair sent the meeting minutes via Colorado Talk this morning. Cody asked if there was any discussion on the minutes.
	2. **MOTION**: Treasurer Shane Clark moved and seconded by Board Member Nate Hecker moved to approve the minutes of 19 July 2023. The Chapter approved the 19 July 2023 minutes.
	3. We continue to have a tabled item for the March, April and May 2023 meetings. This item has been on the table since 21 June 2023. Board Member Ileen Gallegos needs to complete these minutes. Gary had a takeaway to send the recordings for the March, April and May meetings to send the recordings to Ileen. He did so via Dropbox. Gary made no motion to remove the tabled item so it will carry forward to the next meeting.
	4. Gary had another takeaway from the 19 July 2023 meeting. He obtained a new logo and was able to successfully add “Mile High Chapter” to it. The logo is now in use beginning with these minutes.
3. Treasurers Report, Treasurer Shane Clark
	1. Shane said our balance was $3,189.41 as of the last meeting of 19 July 2023.
	2. We had the following expenditures:
		1. $250.00 for bowling made to President Cody Bair. This expenditure was approved by a motion of the Chapter on 21 June 2023.
		2. $120.00 raised from a 50/50 during the bowling event. Shane is retaining this amount for cash.
		3. $50.00 to register the Mile High Chapter with the Colorado Secretary of State.
			1. Note: This expense was approved on 5 August 2023 by Vice-President Andrea Fowler via email.
		4. $800.00 to the NFBCO. The check finally cleared.
		5. $25.00 PAC pledge (pending as of today).
	3. The following deposits occurred:
		1. $10.00 in cash for dues for Vaughn Beck and Shane Howard.
	4. The balance as of today is $2,064.41 (bank balance).
	5. Cody asked if the above balance includes the petty cash. Shane said it does not. The total assets with the petty cash is $2,184.41. Cody would like to report both balances with any petty cash out.
	6. Cody stated we never filed with the Colorado Secretary of State when the Wells Fargo Bank account was opened in 2012. The chapters now need to register with the Colorado Secretary of State. Wells Fargo noticed we did not file with the Colorado Secretary of State when we added Shane’s signature to the account. Cody filed a couple weeks ago. It will cost $10.00 annually to renew with the Colorado Secretary of State. Secretary Gary Van Dorn asked if we could register in perpetuity; Cody responded that we cannot.
		1. Note: The Document Number for the Colorado Secretary of State is 20231823300. Gary is unable to obtain a copy of the certificate online. We have a copy of the email in the chapter’s records which will act as the official documentation.
	7. **MOTION**: Gary moved and Board Member Susie D’Mello seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer’s report for 16 August 2023. The Chapter approved the Treasurer’s Report for 16 August 2023.
	8. Cody said that Matt Gesualdi paid his dues to Cody via Venmo today. Gary asked for Matt’s information. Cody will Zelle the $5.00 in dues to the Mile High Chapter.
4. Fundraising, Board Member Nate Hecker
	1. Nate has no information to share as of this meeting. He may have something after the 6 Dot Dash.
	2. President Cody Bair suggests that we begin looking at the at a fundraising opportunity at the Colorado State Convention.
5. Membership
	1. Vice-President Andrea Fowler and Board Member Ileen Gallegos are not present this evening to discuss Membership.
	2. Recap Bowling Event on July 21
		1. President Cody Bair said the bowling event was well attended. He was hoping many of those we met at the Bowling Event would be present this evening; unfortunately, they are not present. Cody asked if we could do things better. The consensus of the Chapter is the event was fun and successful.
		2. Andrea pulled together a 50/50 that covered half of the costs of the event.
	3. White Cane and Slate and Stylus list phone calls
		1. Audrey Marquez reached out those individuals on her White Cane List. There are four people who did not answer and one person who was not interested. Audrey asked if she should try those who did not answer. She tried calling them on 7 August 2023. Voice mails were left. Audrey should make one more attempt after three to four weeks. Audrey’s list had 10 to 12 people on it. Only 9 that are in the Denver metro area. The White Cane List was from March 2023. Cody asked if Audrey wishes to continue with another White Cane List. Audrey said she is willing to work another list.
			1. **Take-Away**: Cody will check with Andrea to determine if there is a new White Cane List.
	4. Cody would like to have another event. A simple event like a dinner in November or December 2023. Doing things before State Convention may not go well. Board Member Nate Hecker thought it would be fun to go to a College Hockey Game such as the University of Denver (DU). Nate thinks Vaughn Beck can get a hookup for student tickets. Tickets run $5.00; Cody is thinking student ticks are solely available to DU students.
		1. Kevan Worley asked how good is DU’s accessible play-by-play. Kevan does not think it is good blind people go to a game without play-by-play. Cody said they have it on the radio. He does not how good the play-by-play is now. The radio could work if reception is good in Ball Arena. The delay was discussed as a possible problem to using the radio. Cody thinks Ball Arena has excellent audio with a separate station for the Arena.
	5. Nate and Vaughn Beck discussed outside the meeting the possibility of tailgating at a Bronco’s game. They are unsure when this would happen. Cody likes the idea and states we would need to accomplish this before it becomes too cold and before the State Convention.
	6. Elizabeth Sprecher likes the idea of an outdoor activity where we hike and move around. Cody is open to doing what people would like to do. Elizabeth points out that people are sitting around at a Bronco’s game. Kevan said a hike does not take too much and we do not have to wait to State Convention. Elizabeth mentions finding a location which is easy to connect with transportation. Kevan Worley mentioned he would bring people from the Olympic City Chapter. Treasurer Shane Clark mentioned the possibility of a walk around Sloans Lake. Elizabeth likes the idea of walking on the trails.
	7. Secretary Gary Van Dorn mentioned we could organize a walk on the South Platte River Trail. He mentioned meeting at Littleton Downtown Station to Mineral Station. Even walking downtown to REI. Kevan said this is a good event to attract people. Cody thinks some would like the idea of a 12-mile hike from Littleton Downtown Station to REI; this could be too long for some. Gary states people can get off where they wish to do so. Gary said there are restaurants or other places to stop at Mineral Station. Gary touted nature in the city where you can hear the rapids of the South Platte River, enjoy a good walk on a very well-maintained trail. The trail is on AllTrails which an app available on the Apple App Store. A discussion occurred on the date. Cody was thinking a weekend would be good such as a Saturday. Kevan suggests the Mile High Chapter City Walk. He says the best way to meet people is on a walk. Cody asked if we wanted to nail down a date tonight. Gary suggests 23 September 2023. Gary says we can include CCB students. Gary mentioned involving Sports and Rec involved. Board Member Susie D’Mello thought a long distance as 10 miles may be too much for some individuals.
	8. The consensus of the Chapter is to have the walk relatively short allowing people to easily participate. Kevan suggested an ad hoc committee to promote the idea. Shane asked if the 6 Dot Dash would harm the event. This is more of an informal, and free, event. The committee can change the date if necessary.
		1. Ad Hoc Committee: Cody appointed the following individuals to an Ad Hoc Committee to develop the Trail Walk:
			1. Gary Van Dorn
			2. Elizabeth Sprecher
			3. Shane Clark
		2. Distances on The Platte River Trail:
			1. Downtown Littleton Station to REI on Platte River Drive in Denver is 12 miles.
			2. Downtown Littleton Station to Mineral Station is 3 miles.
	9. Lisa Bonderson thought it would be an excellent idea to have a drawing for those who register for the Trail Walk. For example, the Mile High Chapter could pay for someone’s registration to State Convention. The person would need to sign up and show up. Discussed the cost of a registration and banquet. The entire registration is $110.00. Gary thinks people need to register for the convention. Registration does not close until mid-October.
		1. **MOTION**: Gary Van Dorn and Susie D’Mello moves and Monique Melton seconds to budget $110.00 as a prize for the Colorado State Convention Register for those who register and show up for the Trail Walk. No discussion. The Chapter passed the motion.
	10. Bishoy Fragella mentioned he heard Board Member Ileen Gallegos has a connection at a comedy bar in Denver. The name of the comedy club is the Wild Side. Treasurer Shane Clark said there is a location on Broadway where they have comedy. He thought it was called Dangerous Comedy.
6. Picnic and Kick Ball
	1. Monique Melton updated us on the Mile High and Wild West Chapters Kick Ball event. The event is 26 August 2023 from 1000 to 1300 MT. The Kick Ball event is being held at Eisenhower Park. The park’s location is 4300 East Dartmouth Avenue, Denver, CO 80222 (East Dartmouth Avenue at South Colorado Boulevard). No experience with Kick Ball is necessary. We are developing a new style adopting it for blind people to play. Some rules are being taken from beeper ball. You can kick the ball and be an outfielder. It is not necessary to organize a team and you are welcome to bring friends. Board Member Nate Hecker states that those who have vision must wear sleep shades. Bring your own sleep shades if you do not wish to share with other people.
	2. Kevan Worley offered to promote the Kick Ball and Picnic Event on his mailing list.
	3. A picnic is being held in conjunction with Kick Ball. There is a Sign-Up Genius. The picnic will occur from Noon to approximately 1700. A question was asked how much they should prepare to bring for. President Cody Bair says there could be 100 people. There are multiple side items so bring a large size plate. You do not need to worry about feeding 100 people. You may contact Cody if you require assistance using Sign-Up Genius.
	4. The Mile High Chapter will provide the meat. Cody asked who knows they will be there. One may RSVP to Cody via email as well. Those on the call who plan on attending are:
		1. Elizabeth Sprecher
		2. Gary Van Dorn
		3. Shane Clark
		4. Monique Melton
		5. Nate Hecker
		6. Susie D’Mello
		7. Kevan Worley
	5. Secretary Gary Van Dorn brought a point of order to the table. There is no allocation of money from the Mile High Chapter NFBCO Treasury to pay for meat. Gary asked how much we require. Cody believes we could allocate $200.00. Monique says this amount is high although she reminded the Chapter we are purchasing the sleep shades (learning shades).
		1. WITHDRAWN MOTION: Gary moved to allocate $200.00 for meat and other items. Moe amended the motion stating we may require ore for the purchase of the sleep shades. Gary brought up a point of order that a motion cannot be amended until it is seconded. Gary withdrew the motion.
		2. **MOTION**: Gary moves to allocate $250.00 for the purchase meat and sleep shades needed for the Kick Ball and Picnic and allowing the Board discretion to increase the amount if appropriate. Monique Melton seconded. The chapter approved the motion.
7. 6 Dot Dash, President Cody Bair
	1. Cody said this is our Sixth Annual 6 Dot Dash. The date of the 6 Dot Dash is 6 September 2023 at the Colorado Center for the Blind. The event begins at 0900 MT. The most significant thing needed from members of the Mile High Chapter is registering for the 6 Dot Dash. Also need assistance with the fund-raising component. It costs $40.00 to register. Check the boxes when you register so you can share a link you can place on social media. Your friends, family and non-friends can contribute using your link. Your $40.00 registration fee is refunded if they donate $100.00 from your link. Another fantastic piece is there was a Mile High Chapter Team. Cody cannot provide a link. Check the box that says Mile High Chapter. Our goal for the Mile High Chapter is $1,200.00.
	2. You may contact Cody if you need assistance registering. There is a registration night where you can also register. The registration night is 31 August 2023 at the Alley, 2420 Main Street, Littleton, CO 80120. The event is from 1700 to 1900 MT. There is a $5.00 discount for registration if you come to this event.
	3. Cody reminds us the blind beer tasting after the race, Breckenridge Brewery will have beer, Great Divide will be present where you can try Braille Ale, the taco truck serving breakfast and lunch, a smoothy truck, typical expo, a puppy kissing both, and so much more!! Stray Dog, with Ann Wrigley and Eric Woods, are performing.
	4. Kevan says the 6 Dot Dash is our most powerful outreach tool other than State Convention. This is the State Fair for the Blind at the Colorado Center for the Bind highlighting our programs and lives. Please invite those you know to attend.
	5. A 50/50 raffle was suggested for the 6 Dot Dash. We would need to determine if a 50/50 was legal. Kevan suggested the Mile High Chapter own this idea. Cody thinks the Braille Ale could work; we must conduct research with the Colorado Gaming Commission on the legality of the 50/50.
	6. Zach Parks offered to reach out to Vail to ascertain if they can aid in the sponsorship. Zach can reach out to Kevan Worley or Cody if they require a sponsorship packet. Sponsorship ideas are always welcome.
	7. Volunteers at the 6 Dot Dash are welcome if you do not wish to run or walk.
8. Braille Ale, Kevan Worley
	1. Kevan reminded us the Braille Ale event is being held on 25 August 2023 at Perry’s Pizzeria and Taphouse, 1268 Interquest Pkwy #100, Colorado Springs, CO 80921. We are working with Great Divide Brewing. They are an independent Colorado brewing company. They brewed a special batch of ale for us we are calling Braille Ale. The NFBCO receives $1.00 per pint of Braille Ale sold. The NFBCO will also receive proceeds from the event. The event is from 1600 to 2000 MT. The event is being held on Kevan’s birthday.
	2. The NFBCO is hoping to use this rollout as a concept to rollout a product that would be canned in stores with Braille on the can. The concept has the potential to bring attention to Braille Literacy to the wider public. The ale being developed is an amber ale. Kevan said to contact him via email if you wish to aid in developing this project. They can use assistance with social media, Branding, contacting cooperate partners, etc.
	3. There is a possibility of transportation being organized from the Denver area. Reach out to President Cody Bair if you have interest in going to the event. Board Member Nate Hecker asked if they will sell Braille Ale in bottles so he may take some home after the event.
	4. The event will also advertise the 6 Dot Dash.
9. State Report
	1. President Cody Bair reminded the Chapter of the Spero Winery Event. Spero Winery is located at 3316 West 64th Avenue, Denver, CO 80221. The event is 30 September 2023. The state is finalizing details. This is a fun event that was ran by the former North Metro Chapter. You can taste wine you want. The food is an Italian themed heavy Hors D’Oeuvres. The cost needs to be determined. Kevan asked if we received any proceeds from sales of wine; Lisa Bonderson says she will check with Spero Winery to ascertain if the NFBCO receives any funds from the sale of wine.
	2. Lisa said she has no new information concerning State Convention as of this meeting. Cody says the convention is 26 through 29 October 2023 at the Denver South Marriott at Park Meadows. Convention registration is not open. Cody believes the hotel is accepting reservation; hotel reservations may close in late September to early October. The agenda is being planned. There is a plan to have a science theme. They are looking at the Night on the Town again. Friday will have Resolutions and a General Session. Breakouts are in the afternoon. Saturday has more General Sessions, breakouts and the banquet. Sunday concludes with a final general session. Kevan would like proposals for breakout sessions by 21 September 2023. You may email Kevan with your proposals. The convention planners will inform you by 3 October 2023 if they accept your breakout session. Kevan said he sent the Request for Proposal (RFP) over a week ago and he received four proposals so far.
	3. Contact Lisa if you require assistance with State Convention. Lisa asks you contact her by mid-September.
	4. Zack Parks inquired about donating for the 2023 convention. Zack makes the handcrafted boxes and chest which inspires high bidding at the Convention Auction. He will build it and figure out how to get the donation there if he is unable to make it. Kevan suggests Zack offer chair massages at the Convention.
	5. Cody reminds the Chapter to think of an Auction Item for this year’s convention. Cody reached out to the Denver Nuggets with an email a few days ago. We received a nice package from the Nuggets we auctioned off last year.
10. CCB Report
	1. Eliza Portugal says more students are arriving. One student came from Atlanta this week. Graduations are occurring soon.
	2. Dishon Speers reminds the Chapter Duncan Larsen is retiring from CCB on 1 September 2023 beginning at 1700 MT. Her last day is 31 August 2023. You need to RSVP by calling the Front Desk at 303-778-1130 advising Jennifer Speers you wish to attend.
	3. A student arrived from Liberia a couple months ago. She works with blind people in Liberia. She is residing in the apartments and taking classes.
11. Transportation Report, Secretary Gary Van Dorn
	1. Gary attended the RTD Board meeting with Curtis Chong on 25 July 2023. This is the first Board meeting Gary attended in person since before the pandemic.
	2. RTD approved a reduction in fares and zones. RTD has a website containing [full details](https://www.farefeedback.rtd-denver.com/fares). A few highlights include:
		1. A one-year pilot offering students 19-years and younger free fare beginning 1 September 2023.
		2. Local fares are currently $3.00 and will be reduced to $2.75 on 1 January 2024.
		3. Regional fare is $6.00 and the Regional fair is being eliminated on 1 January 2024.
		4. The Local Day Pass is $6.00, while the Regional Day Pass and DIA is $10.50. The Day pass will be $5.50 for Local and Regional Service and $10.00 for DIA on 1 January 2024.
		5. There are also reductions to monthly passes, discount fares, and Access-a-Ride service. Gary encourages you to review the above link since these programs can be detailed.
	3. Gary spoke before the RTD Board expressing his concern that the fare reduction could have a negative impact upon service. He did not speak on behalf of the NFBCO. The NFBCO emphatically opposes all reductions in RTD service. Reductions in service does have a disparate impact on Access-a-Ride users along with those who take the train or bus. He also spoke with General Manager Deborah Johnson after the meeting. General Manager Johnson said six percent of RTD revenue is from fare box collections. Gary questions this logic since the fare revenue was higher in the past. General Manger Johnson refers to the fare collection in the budget “Budget dust”. She considers six percent a minimal amount. Gary informed General Manager Johnson about the negative impact eliminating a route to the CCB apartments in 2012 had upon us. (Note: the elimination of the route caused CCB to purchase McGeorge Mountain View earlier than anticipated.)
	4. Cody is grateful RTD is eliminating the zones.
	5. The NFBCO has never taken a position on the reduction or increase in fares. We will oppose any change that negatively impacts service.
	6. Gary asked General Manager Johnson to share any proposals RTD may forward to the General Assembly to him. The NFBCO would review any proposal before we endorse it.
	7. New bus route changes will take effect on 3 September 2023. Gary reviews the changes that could have an impact upon the routes he takes. He asks you to review any changes, or future proposed changes, for any negative impact you may encounter. RTD make schedule adjustments three times per year. Proposals are made through Committee before going to the Board. Gary has sent proposals to Colorado Talk in the past. CCB has staff members who review changes having an impact upon their operations.
	8. One of the changes will affect East and West Colfax Avenue. West Colfax currently has one route; the change on 3 September 2023 will have the 16 and 17. East Colfax will continue receiving service from the 15/15L.
	9. Elizabeth Sprecher asked if the updates will appear in the apps such as Transit. Yes. RTD is very good at providing updates in service changes of any kind to Google. Most apps use Google as their foundation. Gary said you may also sign up for RTD alerts. You can [sign up](https://app.rtd-denver.com/alerts) for these alerts on your own.
	10. A meeting is being held on 12 September 2023 on the East Colfax Redevelopment Project. The community is welcome to attend and Gary encourages you to participate. The meeting involves parking along East Colfax between Broadway and Colorado Boulevard. There are several blind individuals living in a housing project at East Colfax and Franklin. Gary knows a member of the NFBCO resides there and passes information to the residents; most of the blind people residing there are not members of the NFBCO. Gary has provided detailed information in past meetings on how the reconfiguration will work. The reconfiguration is from Civic Center Station to the west side of Yosemite Street with stations approximately 0.4 miles. Public artwork is being considered. Yosemite is the boundary between Denver and Aurora. This is a demonstration since they are looking at a similar concept on Broadway and Federal Boulevard.
	11. The City and County of Denver (CCD) is being far sighted in its outlook developing these projects. They are including blind people and others with disabilities in the planning of the Sixteenth Street Mall, East Colfax Redevelopment Project and other infrastructure projects.
	12. Gary represents the Colorado-Cross Disability Coalition (CCDC) while Curtis represents the NFBCO as Sixteenth Street Mall Champions. The Sixteenth Street is using a “curbeless” design that involved extensive input of the NFBCO. Curtis and Gary are challenging blind people and the transit community to think of a different word than “curbeless”. Gary advised those new members there is a demonstration mockup in the Outer Space located at Sixteenth Street Mall and Welton Street. The Mall is under full construction that should end in two years.
	13. RTD remains free until 31 August 2023. Bustang is at half fair until 30 September 2023.
	14. Gary shared his transit experience traveling to the Olympic City Chapter Picnic. He missed Bustang since he was at the wrong bus stop and he ended up taking Lyft with another passenger at the bus stop. Gary thanked Kevan and the Olympic City Chapter for their hospitality. He returned using Bustang. Gary went to Boulder Valley Chapter dine out yesterday using RTD. He encourages you to use our transit systems to travel not only on RTD but between cities.
	15. Gary points out that Colorado has done an excellent job with intercity bus travel. We are not trapped in the Denver area with RTD. The NFBCO, CCDC, and others, had a significant hand in developing this.
	16. Gary is receiving the Minuro Yasuri Community Service Volunteer Award tomorrow at 1000 MT. The award is for his advocacy with transit issues. The $2,000.00 given with the award is being given to the Preserving Historical Documents with the NFBCO. Peggy Chong will receive the check.
12. Other Business
	1. Zack Parks asked how he may become a member of the Mile High Chapter. Secretary Gary Van Dorn moves and Treasurer Shane Clark seconded that we accept the membership of Zach Parks upon payment of $5.00 in dues. The Chapter approved the motion. President Cody Bair will reach out after the call to obtain payment. Gary asked for Zach’s contact information too. Zach asked Cody if he has Zach’s email; Cody affirmed he has Zach’s email.
	2. Treasurer Shane Clark asked if Elizabeth Sprecher is interested in becoming a member of the Mile High Chapter. Elizabeth is interested. She would like to come to an event before she joins the chapter. Elizabeth asked how we accept dues. We can do cash, Zelle, check or Square. Elizabeth asked to join. Gary moves to accept the membership of Elizabeth Sprecher as a member of the Mile High Chapter upon the payment in $5.00 dues. Monique Melton seconded the motion. The chapter approved the motion.
	3. Eliza Portugal asked to become a member of the Mile High Chapter. Gary moves to accept the membership of Eliza Portugal upon the payment of $5.00 in dues. Shane seconded. The Chapter approved the motion.
	4. Board Member Nate Hecker asked how many members we have. Gary will provide an update with a list of members during the next meeting.
	5. Elizabeth said she posted on Colorado Talk that she is offering Braille Music and piano lessons for anyone who is interested.
	6. Kevan Worley does the communications strategy for the NFBCO. Email kevan@nfbco.org. Please share anything you are working on with Kevan if you need to spread the word.
13. Adjourn
	1. Secretary Gary Van Dorn moves to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Monique Melton. The Chapter approved the motion to adjourn. The Mile High Chapter adjourned at 1959 MT.
	2. Our next meeting is 20 September 2023. The meeting will be held via [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83848943667?pwd=a0hCYmZSTkNGWG40UGp4YjlKeEdYdz09).