

ADA COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2021

Session 21-01, a Regular Meeting of the ADA Compliance Committee was called to order by Acting Chair Geisler at 4:02 p.m. on January 14, 2021 via Zoom Webinar from the City Hall Conference Room located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: JOYANNA GEISLER, DONNA ADERHOLD, ROGER CLYNE, PAM VAN HOOZER

ABSENT: LINDA MUNNS (EXCUSED)

STAFF: RENEE KRAUSE, DEPUTY CITY CLERK/ADA COORDINATOR
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT MEYERS

Deputy City Clerk Krause noted the Chair's absence and Member Geisler stepped up to perform the role of Acting Chair.

AGENDA APPROVAL

GEISLER/VAN HOOZER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

There was no public present.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items scheduled.

SYNOPSIS APPROVAL

A. Approval of the November 12, 2020 Synopsis

Acting Chair Geisler requested a motion to approve the minutes.

VEN HOOZER/CLYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Transition Plan – Parks & Trails – Next Steps

Acting Chair Geisler introduced the item by reading of the title. She invited Deputy City Clerk Krause to provide some input on the subject.

Deputy City Clerk Krause facilitated a discussion on getting started on a transition plan for the city owned parks and trails and determining what were the next steps.

Public Works Director Keiser reported that their Public Works would be the gatekeepers on this transition plan since they maintain the parks and trails for the city. She noted that Public Works is in the process of updating the non-motorized trails and transportation plan which would include the suggestions for new trails as well as protocols for maintenance of existing trails. They have also started in 2020 a trail maintenance plan which will classify the trails into different categories such as level of usage, maintenance, accessibility, etc. Ms. Keiser believed that this could be used as well for a transition plan since they would be able to take that data and move it into the ADA Transition Plan for Parks and Trails. Ms. Keiser provided examples from the Adopted ADA Transition Plan with regards to proper height of things such as sinks and door handles and interpretation allowed on measurements. She further explained that they were tracking down architectural standards and are in the process of dissecting them to see how they apply to the existing ADA transition plan and be equally applied to the Parks and Trails Transition Plan. The Public Works Department is becoming more educated on guidelines and implementation practices, transferring those learned practices on city buildings they will be more capable for parks and trails. Ms. Keiser further stated that combining all the work that is ongoing with the ADA Transition Plan, non-motorized Trails and Transportation Plan Update and the Trails Maintenance Plan they will be able to transition a lot of that data to create the Parks and Trails ADA Transition Plan. She expected that the transition plan could be completed by the end of 2021. She believed that much of what needs to be done are easily identified and completed during building and parks maintenance efforts. Public Works has not started the drafting of an ADA Parks and Trails Transition Plan but hope to get started on that this quarter.

Member Aderhold stated that there was an ADA data sheet template that was completed and this was performed by members of the Committee noting that having the data sheet completed by someone that experiences a disability or who have a greater understanding of accessibility issues is really valuable to the gathering of data needed to develop the transition plan.

Public Works Director Keiser agreed stating that they are reaching out to identifying resources then next steps will be involved in data collection. She stated that they would develop an outline or process sheet.

Acting Chair Geisler reported that Public Works could contact the NW ADA group in Seattle since Alaska was in their region, noting that they are very responsive. She noted that the guidelines are pretty set in stone generally for buildings but for parks and recreation there are some differences. She then also provided another resource of the Access Board and offered to introduced Mr. Myers and Ms. Keiser to those contacts at the NW ADA Center.

Member Clyne asked about the city receiving notices of the Federal ADA guidelines and standards updates.

Public Works Director Keiser responded that knowing what the standards are is easy but knowing what the updates of the standards are not necessarily so easy, and trying to locate those resources is somewhat of a treasure hunt since there is no single point of contact. She continued by stating to have a person whose responsibility to figure this out and keep track of it will help us find those answers.

Member Clyne asked if there was a person at the State level that could provide resources for the city.

Public Works Director Keiser responded that there are resources in different divisions and that they have reached out to the Department of Transportation.

Acting Chair Geisler commented that David Newman is the State of Alaska ADA coordinator and it is his responsibility to assist local government. She further noted that ADA has been in effect for 30 years so it is not new, there are five different areas and the burden of responsibility does lie with the state and local government entities in this situation. ADA regulations have not been updated since 2010. Parks and recreation have been added since then but if you contact the NW ADA center or Access Board they will provide good information.

Public Works Director Keiser and Mr. Meyers provided input on the amount of technical information contained in the architectural standards that make it a daunting task for someone if it was ancillary to their position. It is not a simple document to follow. After further research they were able to locate a that comprehensive primer which provides a lot of information however they will require a complete set of regulations for the more comprehensive items.

Acting Chair Geisler indicated that they could visit the NW ADA Center website and believed that they would be able to locate the required information. She continued by stating how proud she is that Homer has a Transition Plan where many communities in Alaska do not and the regulations have been in effect since 1995 and there are so many communities that do not even have a transition plan. It may have taken a few years but she is proud that Homer has taken this seriously, but we are at the time now that we need to start making these changes and making sure that they are correct.

B. Memorandum from Public Works Director re: ADA Transition Plan Projects Update

Acting Chair Geisler introduced the item by reading of the title.

Public Works Director Keiser provided her report to the committee noting the following:

- Drainage issues on the Poopdeck Trail and placement of the ramp from the parking area to the bottom of the trail to facilitate access due to steep terrain
- Sanding the trails in winter currently done by hand and funding was found to order equipment that will assist in efficiency, safety and manpower
- City Hall retrofit on front entry
- Signage – interior and exterior

- Van Accessible Parking signs
 - Braille
- Paving ADA Parking Pads requires additional funding or reduction in scope of work to bring within the budget
- Airport
 - Corresponding with AKDOT on who is the responsible party to bring that facility up to ADA standards with the restrooms, etc.

Member Aderhold expressed her appreciation for Public Works towards getting things completed from the transition plan, efforts to get the AKDOT involved regarding the Airport, the concerted efforts to get the trails sanded this winter and if there was a way to channel that drainage on Poopdeck Trail to go off into the woods instead of running down the trail.

Public Works Director Keiser noted that they have been discussion various methods to alleviate the drainage issues including raising the tread of the trails so that it rises above the drainage and the placement of the ramp. She noted the issues of snow getting compacted and then the warming weather and rain instead of snow then creates perfect conditions for ice because the temps are still at or below freezing.

Member Clyne requested that trails be prioritized on the potential risk of liability to individuals with disabilities.

Public Works Director Keiser responded that trails are not evaluated in that perspective but on how quickly it can be done and the least amount of funding involved.

Acting Chair Geisler noted that ADA requirements and prioritization is based on accessibility to the facility and then goods and services. In terms of liability the Committee created a form that is available on the website that the public can use to file a complaint.

A brief discussion was facilitated regarding previous complaints filed and the improvements that were brought about.

Additional comments were noted regarding accessibility issues on the following:

- Beluga Slough Trail
 - Transitions to the Boardwalk – whose jurisdiction to maintain
- Bishop's Beach area

Member Clyne stated that having a jurisdictional responsibility listed in the plan would be good.

C. City of Homer ADA Compliance Program Webpages

Deputy City Clerk Krause reported that she had not been able designate time to speak with Member Van Hoozer and requested input regarding the issues.

Member Van Hoozer reported that she uses the program JAWS and her reader cannot read the photo for the symbol. It just starts picture. She noted that she has worked with Nate with the Alaska Center

for the Blind and Visually Impaired and he cannot figure it out either. It may be the layout because there is the symbol then writing so it runs together.

A brief discussion ensued and Deputy City Clerk Krause will employ some minor solutions of spacing and layout to see if that will remove those issues with the program.

Acting Chair Geisler will try to get the information on who built the website ATLA and get that information to Ms. Krause.

NEW BUSINESS

A. ADA Transition Plan Update Revision Draft

Acting Chair Geisler introduced the item by reading of the title.

Deputy City Clerk Krause reported that she initiated amendments and updates to the transition plan as requested by Member Aderhold at the November meeting and was hoping to have them completed but will endeavor to get that completed for the April meeting. So this will have to be brought back for the April meeting. She will include all updates that Public Works completes in the time before the next meeting as well. Ms. Krause reported that she researched a few different cities and found that their transition plans include historical background, with sections on what was completed, what needed to be completed and plans going forward and she would like have the Homer ADA Transition Plan formatted to represent a accessibility guidelines instead of a manual..

Member Aderhold expressed her appreciation for the work that Rachel Tussey did in working on the spreadsheets and information which really has been a big help in getting the work done but as they have accomplished things keeping that historical information as a guide would be helpful going forward and transitioning the plan into a accessibility guidelines would be great.

Deputy City Clerk Krause added that changing the format just a bit will make it a living document that evolves over time rather than requires being re-written or recreated in the future. It makes it easier to make the minor updates on an annual basis.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Resolution 20-114, Advisory Bodies 2021 Regular Meeting Schedule

A brief discussion ensued on the dates shown in the adopted resolution are the correct meeting dates for the Committee. She noted in response to questions from the Committee that the dates can be amended by scheduling a meeting as long as we have a minimum two week notice to comply with the advertising requirements.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Krause commented that it was wonderful to meeting everyone and is looking forward to working with the Committee, getting learned up and being productive.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Member Van Hoozer welcomed Ms. Krause aboard.

Acting Chair Geisler commented on maybe by April being able to meet in person.

Member Clyne echoed Ms. Geisler's sentiments on meeting in person.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the City Hall Conference Room via Zoom Webinar located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.



RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK/ADA COORDINATOR

Approved: May 13, 2021