

Session 21-07, a Regular Meeting of the ADA Compliance Committee was called to order by Acting Chair Donna Aderhold at 4:00 p.m. on August 12, 2021, via Zoom Webinar from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS ADERHOLD, DEADRICK, GEISLER, VAN HOOZER, AND THORSRUD

STAFF: RENEE KRAUSE, DEPUTY CITY CLERK/ADA COORDINATOR
MATT STEFFY, PARKS SUPERINTENDENT
OWEN MEYER, PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT TECHNICIAN

AGENDA APPROVAL

Acting Chair Aderhold read the changes to the agenda into the record and requested a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

DEADRICK/GEISLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

RECONSIDERATION

SYNOPSIS APPROVAL

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2021

Acting Chair Aderhold requested a motion to approve the minutes.

GEISLER/VAN HOOZER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 12, 2021.

There was a correction required to the date in the heading.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. Memorandum from ADA Coordinator re: Development of the Draft Parks Transition Plan
 1. Worksheet Notes and Photos of Park Visits 2021
 2. Memorandum from Project Technician re: parks ADA Transition Plan

Acting Chair Aderhold introduced the item and invited ADA Coordinator Krause to speak to her memorandum.

Ms. Krause provided a brief summary of how the Committee can proceed to develop the Parks Transition Plan using the original approved transition plan process and formatting.

Ms. Geisler inquired if the information and pictures would be inserted into the notes that were transferred into the spreadsheet as shown on page 12-15 of the packet.

Acting Chair Aderhold explained that the end result would look similar to the Transition Plan that was created for the city buildings.

Ms. Geisler commented that the format presented in the packet was very easy to follow.

Acting Chair Aderhold commented that she found the worksheets were not as useful for the accessibility surveys for the parks as the worksheets that they used for buildings and parking lots. It was agreed by those that attended those site visits, that it was difficult to measure things in the parks. She invited the Staff to comment as well since they participated. Ms. Aderhold confirmed for the Committee that they intend to use that information in the final transition plan.

Further discussion ensued between committee members and staff on developing the Parks Transition Plan with Ms. Krause sharing the approved transition plan which contained the non-compliant issues, photo, and location, reference code from ADA regulations that was applicable, priority level, cost estimate and timeline. Additional points made during the discussion were as follows:

- Seeking services of an estimating business versus using in house services personnel and staff for estimating project costs
- Focusing on compiling the list of non-compliant issues for the parks and campgrounds and getting that data compiled into a usable format similar to the original transition plan
- ADA Regulations as well as ABA regulations will be used
- Work towards prioritizing the parks, based on level of usage and age groups that use the particular parks
- Creating the timeline and realizing that costs would be last in priority ranking
- Items that were marked as yes during the accessibility surveys would not be included but keeping in perspective the degree to which a park is out of compliance will also be a useful metric in that they should take credit and list the compliant features within a park in the transition plan
- City Manager newsletter could be used to inform people on what they are accomplishing

- The importance on the ability to get input from people who have a disability and if they have or can provide input and who oversees the accessibility to these parks.
 - o Surfaces such as gravel and deep dirt makes it very difficult to access using a cane
 - o Some barriers are not physical but mental barriers as well and that lends to programmatic limitations and COVID adds an additional layer
 - Karen Hornaday Playground can be overwhelming to those with invisible disabilities
 - Sensory issues
- Non-compliant issues would need to be dealt with whether they are costly or not as there is no more leniency at the Federal level. These regulations have been in effect for a very long time.

Committee member Van Hoozer lost connection at 4:45 p.m.

Committee members and Staff discussed prioritizing the parks that were visited and determined by consensus the following priority order, which was based on usage, range of activities or amenities provided and age levels:

1. Karen Hornaday Park, including the Campground
2. Bayview Park
3. Bishop's Beach Park
4. Mariner Park – Day Use Area and Campground
5. Fishing Hole Campground
6. Jack Gist Park
7. Ben Walters Park
8. WKFL Park
9. Seafarer's Memorial

It was agreed that ranking the facilities using the same scale as previously used but tailored to fit parks and trails would be appropriate. It was noted that previously reviewed parking lots and or restrooms would be included but just referenced. Cost/Impact Ranking and timeline ranking would be based on a scale similar to the previously applied ranking used in the first transition plan.

Ms. Krause expressed that she should be able to bring back an informative spreadsheet reflecting the non-compliant issues.

Discussion ensued on the Seafarer's Memorial in that there is a Committee of people that take care of the maintenance and repair of that park and that they should extend an invitation to the group, however the park is city owned and there is no Memorandum of Agreement on file that is known. A major concern is the responsibility and liability to the City if someone files a grievance as there are obvious accessibility issues; who owns the actual structures and the responsibility of the City to encourage businesses and organizations that lease city property to be ADA compliant.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Acting Chair Aderhold introduced the item by reading of the title and invited Ms. Krause to speak to her memorandum.

Ms. Krause confirmed that the Committee reviewed her memorandum and stated that new members of the Committee should not be hesitant to volunteer to fill either of the open positions. Hearing no questions from the Committee she turned the floor back to Acting Chair Aderhold.

Acting Chair Aderhold requested volunteers or nominations for the Office of Chair.

A brief discussion ensued on Ms. Aderhold's ability and willingness to serve as Chair for the Committee and encouragement was provided for the newer members to step up to serve as Chair and Vice Chair.

Committee member Geisler nominated Donna Aderhold as chair. Committee member Thorsrud seconded the nomination.

There were no further nominations and Ms. Aderhold was unanimously elected to the office of Chair.

Committee member Geisler reiterated her offer to serve as Vice Chair which was seconded by Committee member Thorsrud.

There were no further nominations or volunteers for the office of Vice Chair and Ms. Geisler was unanimously elected to the office of Vice Chair.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Krause commented that it was nice to have a full committee present and expressed that she was glad Ms. Van Hoover was able to attend most of the meeting today and would like to know if the Committee would be interested in a discussion on increasing the membership of the Committee by two persons. This can be added to the agenda for the November meeting if the Committee is still interested.

Chair Aderhold polled the Committee and there was consensus to have it on the agenda for discussion.

Mr. Steffy commented that it was a good meeting and that they are all on the same page in the direction that they are heading and he appreciated all the work everyone was putting into this parks transition plan.

Mr. Meyer echoed Mr. Steffy's sentiments and inquired if Ms. Krause needed any assistance in locating notes or photos to let him know.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Ms. Thorsrud commented that it was a great meeting and really appreciates the level of enthusiasm and commitment that everyone is doing.

Ms. Deadrick expressed her thanks for the patience of the other committee members and staff for her learning curve and would be really interested in the audits of the trails when they are ready to do that as trails are her passion.

Ms. Geisler expressed her thanks to Mr. Steffy and Mr. Meyer for their onsite assistance and excited that they have a full committee now and looks forward to working with everyone. She expressed her appreciation for Ms. Krause's efforts and work also.

Chair Aderhold commented she really appreciates having staff so very involved in this process due to their knowledge about what's going on at all of these facilities and being able to tie together the work that ADA committee is doing with master planning and safety issues. She further commented that it is just going to make so many improvements at the parks and campgrounds.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.



RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II/ADA COORDINATOR

Approved: November 10, 2021