

Session 22-01 a Regular Meeting of the ADA Compliance Committee was called to order by Chair Donna Aderhold at 4:00 p.m. on February 10, 2022, via Zoom Webinar from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

**PRESENT:** COMMITTEE MEMBERS ADERHOLD, DEADRICK, GEISLER, AND THORSRUD

**ABSENT:** COMMITTEE MEMBER VAN HOOZER (EXCUSED)

**STAFF:** DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE  
PARKS SUPERINTENDENT STEFFY  
PROJECT TECHNICIAN MEYER

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chair Aderhold requested a motion to approve the agenda.

THORSRUD/DEADRICK MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**

Scott Adams, city resident and caretaker for the Seafarers Memorial commented that after speaking with Parks Superintendent Steffy and Chair Aderhold they are taking steps to make modifications to the access for the area around the memorial which will make access available for everyone. He provided a hand drawn rendering and will provide a copy for the city.

### **RECONSIDERATION**

### **SYNOPSIS APPROVAL**

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2021

Chair Aderhold requested a motion to approve the minutes.

THORSRUD/GEISLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2021.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

### **PENDING BUSINESS**

- A. Memorandum from ADA Coordinator re: Parks Transition Plan and accessibility Surveys

Chair Aderhold introduced the item by reading of the title and invited ADA Coordinator Krause to speak to the memorandum.

ADA Coordinator Krause provided a summary of the memorandum which provided status update on the progress for the Parks Transition Plan. She noted that there were some revisions to the text, created a spreadsheet using the notes provided by committee members and staff from their surveys. The next concurrent step in the process is for Public Works staff to start working on estimates of costs and whether the corrections can be done in house or if a contractor would need to be hired. She stated that she required assistance in pointing out the locations and the Accessibility issues as some of the more blatant access problems can be determined but others cannot just by the pictures. They will then need to work as a Committee to determine the priority of corrections in accordance with the regulations. Mrs. Krause further suggested that they separate the Trails from the Playground and Parks Transition Plan and address a separate Transition Plan for the Trails after they complete this one the parks and playgrounds.

A brief discussion ensued on separating the trails from the parks/playground transition plan and that it was a good suggestion to separate the two. A question was posed on inclusion of trails in parks such as an access trail within the Bayview Park, Bishop's Beach trail and the trails within Karen Hornaday Park. It was recommended by staff that since they have a plan and grant for the Karen Hornaday Park access trail that it be kept separate.

Mrs. Krause pointed out that even if they perform the transition plans separately they will eventually be included with the original transition plan done on the city facilities into one overall transition plan. They could include in the parks transition plan and then be able to show their accomplishments.

Chair Aderhold requested a motion and second.

GEISLER/THORSRUD MOVED TO SEPARATE THE TRAILS FROM THE PARKS AND PLAYGROUND TRANSITION PLAN AND ADDRESS IT AT A LATER DATE AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS TRANSITION PLAN.

A brief discussion on separating the trails from the parks but that there should be a definition to define a trail in a park compared to a trail to a park. It was also noted that the total amount of trails and number of parks required updating. IT was clarified that the definition would be included in the Trails Transition Plan.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Discussion and questions were facilitated by Chair Aderhold on the following:

- Addressing identification of playground equipment in the pictures shown
- Most of the pictures of the equipment are representative of what needs to be done
  - o The whole park needs to be accessible
  - o Once the accessibility to the park is addressed then they can focus on the features as Accessible Routes are the top priority in accordance with regulations
  - o Using general identifying remarks when stating location in the plan
- The accessibility of the playground:
  - o This is a moving target as there is no percentage or standard
  - o Health and Safety Issues
  - o Depending on the number of features there are in the playground a certain percentage must be accessible
  - o Addressing accessibility for all abilities – visual, physical, mental, emotional
  - o Developing a maintenance plan to maintain accessibility to features
- Features that provide safety issues should be removed, correcting small items such as replacing handholds with adaptive handholds
- Identified the building where the potable water is located on the spit
  - o Distance between the parking and access is not accessible.
  - o There is no designated ADA Parking
  - o There is not a complete ADA accessible route to access the potable water
  - o The handle to the faucet is not compliant and should be replaced with a lever style
- Notes can be provided for the pictures taken at the Fishing Hole
  - o Re-measure the distance on the grill on all sides
  - o Regulations on front reach, side reach and height
    - ADA regulation 1011 cites clear ground approach on all sides, 2-5% slope and 15-34 inches height
    - Interpretation of clear ground approach - requires clarification
- Seafarers Memorial the bench was relocated to the gravel area from the turf
  - o Plans are in progress to install a cement pad to make the entrance accessible
    - remove the height difference where the bricks are located
  - o two benches past the memorial will have a cement pad installed
  - o adding accessible parking spots in areas that are currently designated as no parking which would allow for access – not sure if legal or not along the highway
  - o installing a fence to keep campers from encroaching on the park area
- Recommended designating accessible parking spots in the parking lots across from the memorial and in additional locations around the harbor.
  - o Requires consulting with Port & Harbor on the additional accessible parking spaces
  - o Accessible parking is usually not placed where the loading/unloading is next to the traffic lane as that presents inherent safety issues.
- Public Works Staff has had a discussion with the Committee on the Seafarer's Memorial and has recommended that Mr. Adams speak to the Parks Commission regarding the work that the group of volunteers does in regards to the memorial.
  - o Working in a partnership in making that facility accessible
  - o City as the property owner needs to address the corrections
- Chair Aderhold noted that she would be able to provide information on photos
- Jack Gist has many accessible issues with parking, dugouts, bleachers, etc.

- There is a line item for ballfield improvements in the amount of \$20,000 and they may be able to include some ADA compliance in that and will follow up at the April meeting.
- Lower right field was dedicated but most are recognized by the location within the park
- Priority should be made on accessible parking and viewing
  - Department of Justice has provided guidance on how corrections should be prioritized as follows:
    1. Accessible approach and entry (parking, accessible routes)
    2. Access to programs and services
    3. Access to restrooms
    4. Access to other items (drinking fountains, trash receptacles, grills, benches, etc.)

Chair Aderhold will be able to add notes for the photographs to include notations of locations and submit to the Clerk.

Further points made on the draft plan were as follows:

- Defining whether the picture is depicting the access, feature, bench, etc.
- Whether a user has an accessibility issue does not matter that the feature must be accessible
- Corrections can be simple such as providing a portable ramp
- Primary accessibility for the upper left field at Jack Gist was the steepness of the grade
  - Clerk will send Public Works staff the spreadsheet for adding their information
- Accessibility in winter versus to summer
- Disc Golf course to be considered a trail for accessibility issues.
  - In accordance with regulations it would not require to be accessible but would be a nice feature
  - Plans in the works to include Disc Golf baskets at the HERC

Ms. Geisler complimented Ms. Krause on her knowledge of the ADA requirements.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Memorandum from ADA Coordinator re: Community Survey**

Chair Aderhold introduced the item by reading of the title.

ADA Coordinator Krause reported that in her review of various communities Transition Plans she found a community in Washington State that issued a survey and thought that would be a good step for Homer to gauge how this community feels about accessibility and since public participation is one of the requirements by the Department of Justice she felt that it would work putting a survey on the City website, announcing it in the monthly newsletter, possibly putting an announcement in the Homer News. She noted that the survey was short just nine questions, more could be added if the Committee desired that but would like a motion of support to submit the request to the City Manager.

Chair Aderhold requested a motion and second.

GEISLER/THORSRUD MOVED TO SUPPORT FORWARDING A REQUEST TO THE CITY MANAGER FOR APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT A COMMUNITY SURVEY.

Discussion ensued on the proposed questions and recommendations made were as follows:

- Listing the locations that they would like feedback on since they have numerous state and borough facilities in the city
- Adding access in general
- Remove the words “emergency response” and refine questions to asking how well they are doing their job as that will provide guidance on where they need to improve
- Keep questions focused on accessibility
- If questions are yes or no then an option to provide more information or reword the questions
- This survey will be limited to accessibility and should have a title to reflect that
- Add any other comments as a catch all
- Be concise with the questions. Question 6 was a bit vague and not sure what is being asked.
- Not targeting those with accessibility issues but keeping the questions suitable for the broader audience.
- Submit the survey to Community Recreation and add QR codes that people can access at places like the library and parks, distribution can be paper and electronic

Ms. Geisler requested that the revised questions be submitted back to the Committee before distribution since they made changes.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

#### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. Resolution 21-083 2022 Meeting Schedule for Advisory Bodies and City Council
- B. City Manager’s Report for City Council Meeting on January 24, 2022
- C. Resolution 22-008 Increasing the Membership of the ADA Compliance Committee

ADA Coordinator Krause reported that they have not had any applicants so far in response to Chair Aderhold’s question.

ADA Coordinator Krause stated that the City would do their very best to make the committee accessible to a member but they did not have any ASL interpreters contracted in response to Ms. Deadrick.

- D. Community Challenge Grant offered by AARP

ADA Coordinator Krause commented that she thought of Bayview Park when she saw this grant opportunity and agreed that it is offered on an annual basis from AARP.

Parks Superintendent Steffy commented that he is discussing with Rotary as they have shown some interest in the park and expressed his goals for the park dependent on the available funding for the park through partnership.

### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Scott Adams, city resident, commented on seeking assistance with access issues at the Fishing Hole and then proceeded to describe his idea of installation of a floating dock for those persons with accessibility issues. He then commented on the access to water at the Clean Out Tank.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

ADA Coordinator Krause commented that it was a very productive and good meeting. In response to a question regarding targeted advertisement they would really like to have a member with mobility issues but would also welcome local business owners and members who are involved in the industry.

Parks Superintendent Steffy questioned if targeted member solicitations to the Long Term Care or Senior Center had been considered. He then commented on the Fishing Lagoon ADA Improvements and noted that this issue is under review by the Public Works staff and that the project was listed in the CIP. Mr. Steffy then provided some input on the availability of grants being offered for text to speech software. He commented on the great meeting and complimented ADA Coordinator Krause on her doing so much work and research.

Project Technician Meyer echoed the compliments expressed on the work done by Renee on her research and noted that it was a good meeting.

### **COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Ms. Deadrick echoed the compliments expressed regarding ADA Coordinator Krause's accomplishments since the last meeting.

Ms. Geisler commented it was a great meeting and reminded everyone that she was generally available between meetings.

Ms. Thorsrud expressed her appreciation for ADA Coordinator Krause's work and believed that this was one of the most productive committees that she has ever served on. She expressed her appreciation for everyone's efforts and time and their concerns regarding the issues.

Chair Aderhold commented her appreciation for the contributions and thanked Mr. Adams for attending the meeting today.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.

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

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_