

CALL TO ORDER

Session 24-04 a Regular Meeting of the ADA Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Christine Thorsrud at 4:00 p.m. on August 8, 2024 from the Cowles Council Chambers, City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS LEPLEY, PARSONS, THORSRUD, VENUTI, O'BRIEN, GEISLER

ABSENT: BOARDMEMBER SAFRA (EXCUSED)

STAFF: CITY CLERK/ADA COORDINATOR KRAUSE
SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR CARROLL

AGENDA APPROVAL

VENUTI/LEPLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 Minute Time limit)

RECONSIDERATION

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Unapproved Special Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2024

LEPLEY/VENUTI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FOR JULY 11, 2024.

There was a brief recess to allow members to read the minutes that were provided in the supplemental packet.

Chair Thorsrud called the meeting back to order and asked if there was any changes or corrections to the minutes. None were offered.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT(S)/COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

A. Monthly ADA Coordinator Report – August 2024

Chair Thorsrud introduced the item and deferred to ADA Coordinator Krause.

Ms. Krause provided clarification on the omission of the Harbor Access Project as staff was unavailable to attend the meeting, the trail transition plan is on hold at this time due to the lack of time to devote to the final drafting of the document. Hopefully by the first of October they will be fully staffed again in the Clerk's Office.

Ms. Krause facilitated a brief discussion on locations that available positions with the city are advertised noting that it was handled by the Personnel Director and topics for the joint worksession with City Council that the ADA Board would like to have Council direction or input on.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Nick Dudiak Lagoon Ramp and Fishing Platform Funding

Ms. Krause provided her report and the Board discussed the following:

- advocacy and how to promote the project to get more awareness
 - o Funding is limited since there is no boat access so applicable grants that were thought to be applicable are not.
 - o Candidate support for upcoming elections
 - o Bringing the issue forward to the Assembly representative
 - o Tourism
- It would be beneficial to have the City Lobbyist work on House Bill 287 for the next legislative session.
- How does the Homer Harbor Expansion Project affect the Fishing Lagoon
 - o The City will probably review the impacts and how this would affect the lagoon
 - o Corps of Engineers may review the effects
- How would that project effect Accessibility and ADA Compliance
- Data collection on sport fishing from Alaska Department of Fish & Game

NEW BUSINESS

A. Joint Worksession with City Council Topics for Discussion

The Board discussed at length and determined the following topics should be submitted for the Joint Worksession with City Council:

- Homer Harbor Accessible Ramp Project – Request for Proposals
- Authorize ADA Board to work with the Port & Harbor Staff to perform research access availability

- issue a challenge to college engineering departments or other entities that could provide ADA access solutions
- Include the Harbor Lift project in the Capital Improvement Plan
- City to embrace above and beyond ADA regulations and or compliance
 - How we discuss ADA regulations to include all ages and abilities
 - Such as picnic tables should ALL be accessible
- Public Transit with City Funds or Match
- Heath Street Renovation Project Status
- Ownership and Renovation of Pioneer Avenue into a walkable pedestrian friendly environment

B. Accessible/Disabled Parking on the Homer Spit

Memorandum CC-24-150 from Councilmembers Lord and Aderhold

Chair Thorsrud announced the topic and requested input from Ms. Krause

Ms. Krause reviewed the memorandum and the requested actions from the Board.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Two schools of thinking
 - Accessible parking should be free no matter where its located
 - Accessible parking should be available but not necessarily free in a paid parking lot
- Tone of response when filing a complaint with the Harbor
 - Form letter distributed to complainant
- Failure to keep accessible parking spots available
 - Work around to being able to park in those spaces
 - No way to adequately police the parking spaces
- Parking on the Spit in the summer is horrendous
- All shops/Boardwalks are required to have accessible parking
- Enforcement
- Examples of Accessible Parking at large public venues, theme park, etc.
- Have more than the required accessible parking spots

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. 2024 Annual Calendar
- B. City Manager's Report for July 22, 2024 City Council Meeting

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Parsons expressed that they had some really good topics to dig into and it was a long meeting but great.

Boardmember Geisler commented that it was a good meeting and noted that they have some work to do hoping that they “stick to their issues” as “guns” may get them in trouble. She noted that she comments frequently to people over the last couple of years that this is the most productive and great use of their time, wonderful individual members that she enjoys working with and regardless of her role. She appreciates working with everyone.

Boardmember Venuti commented being proud of Kristin Faulkner winning two gold medals at the Olympics and viewing a lot of young kids on bicycles. She added comments regarding interest in availability of homes in Homer, bicycle trails. Ms. Venuti congratulated Renee on moving into the City Clerk position and maintaining the ADA Board and will remind everyone to be mindful of staff time as she does a lot for us.

Boardmember O’Brien confirmed the date and time for the Joint Worksession with Council and the Special Meeting for the ADA Board.

Boardmember Lepley commented on the proposed CIP project and noted that the Port & Harbor Commission is a force to be reckon with and it may be expensive but it shouldn’t be millions of dollars but believe that it could be accomplished if we put our minds together and think about it.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Thorsrud adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m. The next regular meeting is Thursday, October 18, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. A Special Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in City Hall Conference Room located upstairs at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, 99603 and via Zoom webinar.

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, CITY CLERK

Approved: _____