

1. CALL TO ORDER

Session 22-07 a Special Meeting of the ADA Advisory Board was called to order by Vice Chair Geisler at 5:03 p.m. on November 10, 2022, from the Cowles Council Chambers, City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar. Vice Chair Geisler conducted the meeting since Chair Aderhold was attending via Zoom.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS ADERHOLD, GEISLER, DEADRICK, PARSONS, SAFRA AND THORSRUD

STAFF: ADA COORDINATOR KRAUSE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER ENGBRETSSEN
PARKS SUPERINTENDENT STEFFY

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Vice Chair Geisler requested a motion to approve the agenda.

PARSONS/ADERHOLD MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

4. RECONSIDERATION

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

5. A. Unapproved Minutes for the Special Meeting of October 13, 2022

Vice Chair Geisler requested a motion to approve the minutes.

PARSONS/THORSRUD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2022.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

6. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

7. REPORTS

7. A. Public Works Director Report for November 2022

Vice Chair Geisler seeing that Public Works Director Keiser was not in attendance invited Parks Superintendent Steffy to speak to the report that was provided.

Parks Superintendent Steffy commented on the following:

- Ben Walters Lane Sidewalk Project per lineal cost increases were due to increased utility presence, and storm drainage requirements
- Homer All Ages and Abilities Pedestrian Plan project and possible funding options from the State
 - o Included in the Capital Improvement Plan
- Noted the responses to correct some of the identified issues brought forward at previous meetings by a resident
- Non-motorized and Transportation Plan

Board member Parsons commented on the recognition of the reported issues in the report and inclusion of the HAP in the CIP.

Superintendent Steffy reported the recent incident regarding the known trip hazard in the entrance sidewalk at the airport and responded to a question regarding a proposed timeline to repair or fix the issues that were addressed in item three of the report.

Vice Chair Geisler noted items included in the report that were not discussed for the benefit of the public attending, as City Hall front entrance ramp and a gender neutral family restroom at the Airport Terminal. She inquired if there were any additional comments or questions regarding the Public Works Director's report.

ADA Coordinator Krause requested the Board's input on the idea of the proposed gender neutral family restroom at the airport expressing moderate concern that it would not be available to persons that it is intended or being constructed to accommodate if labeled as a family restroom.

Discussion ensued on the purpose and intent to construct the single stall restroom and identification, suggestions made on modifying the existing restroom stalls in the men's and women's restrooms to include changing tables which would then leave the new restroom stall for its intended purpose. It was noted that the general public will probably still use it but it could be identified as accessible only.

Deputy City Clerk Krause called for a brief recess and quickly logged off the meeting as there was suddenly tremendous feedback noise. She dialed back in on a different phone number which solved the issue.

Vice Chair Geisler called the meeting back to order and requested this item to be on the February agenda for a further update on the proposed location within the airport and recommendation to modify the existing handicap stalls as family stalls.

8. PUBLIC HEARING(S)

9. PENDING BUSINESS

9. A. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk re: Advisory Board Bylaws

Vice Chair Geisler introduced the item and deferred to Deputy City Clerk Krause.

Deputy City Clerk Krause stated that actions of the Board at the October meeting and the required action needed by the Board at this meeting. She then inquired if there were any additional comments, questions or amendments to the Bylaws as presented and none were offered.

Vice Chair Geisler requested a motion and second to adopt the Bylaws as presented and forward to City Council for approval.

DEADRICK/THORSRUD MOVED TO ADOPT THE ADA ADVISORY BOARD BYLAWS AS PRESENTED AND FORWARD TO CITY COUNCIL FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10. A. Advocacy for ADA Accessibility at Homer Businesses

Vice Chair Geisler introduced the topic and stated that Boardmembers were interested in how they can bring forward promoting the benefits to local businesses coming into compliance with ADA regulations so that Homer can truly be an accessible city. She noted that ADA Coordinator Krause has provided the ADA Guide for Small Businesses and commented that it was a nice document.

Boardmember Deadrick stated that a recommendation was made to distribute to local businesses representatives at Chamber of Commerce meetings and Rotary as initial distribution start.

Vice Chair Geisler mentioned that the Independent Learning Center is moving forward on using an application called “Blue Path” and deferred to Board member Parson.

Boardmember Parson provided a report on what and how Blue Path is used and applied. It is similar to Yelp and is an application that the public can use to rate the accessibility of vendors, stores, services, etc. It originated in Idaho near Washington State University and the aim is to be nationwide. This will be decimated currently by word of mouth and the Independent Living Center will be presenting at the Chamber during one of the monthly meetings.

Vice Chair Geisler explained that it is the customer that will rate the business on how accessible that the individual business really is, this also is easier than attending a six month training course on accessibility requirements.

Boardmember Parson provided a sample that the application will ask a question similar to here is ADA requirement how does this establishment meet that? They also provide a comment section where the person can provide further explanation on the compliance or non-compliant feature.

Members of ILC will be coming familiar with the application and then presentations will be made to local organizations to bring awareness to the local businesses.

Discussion ensued between the Boardmembers on the following points:

- Distribution should be made at the Senior Center, South Peninsula Behavioral Health, ILC, etc., when members of the public can be made aware of the information and Blue Path application.
- Businesses are not going to be willing to spend funds to make those changes
- This information needs to be given or distributed to the people
- Businesses need to be given the information to make them aware of the application, Blue Path

Chair Aderhold requested this topic to be on the agenda to discuss how and what is the role of the ADA Advisory Board in this

At 5:49 p.m. sound was lost between Zoom panelists and members present in the Council Chambers. Technical issues were resolved at 5:53 p.m.

Vice Chair Geisler responded that she believed the ADA Board can be a leader and is responsible for the transition plan for the city and can be a role model for the businesses in City.

Deputy City Clerk Krause responded that Boardmembers can speak at a Chamber of Commerce meeting as long as they are speaking on behalf of the ADA Board. She explained for the benefit of the newest members that since they are now an Advisory Body to Council the Open Meetings Act, Robert’s Rules, Homer City Code are guidelines as will the Bylaws once they

are approved. When speaking to the public on items that the Board may or could take action on the members need to be cognizant of how the public perception may be on that comment. So we emphasize thinking twice before commenting on topics in or on a public forum. The Board should by a minimum of general consensus agree on what they want to represent as an advisory body to Council.

Vice Chair Geisler noted that this item will be on the February agenda and the Board can take action on it at that time. Until then Blue Path is a ILC initiative only.

10. B. 2023 Meeting Schedule

Vice Chair Geisler introduced the item by reading of the title, and noted the meeting dates for the record. She requested a motion and second.

SAFRA/DEADRICK MOVED TO ADOPT THE 2023 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED.

There was discussion regarding scheduling regular monthly meetings and having breaks to allow the staff to complete tasks, it was noted that August meeting was added as a regular meeting date and special meetings or worksessions could always be scheduled if needed.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- 11.A. Follow-up on Citizen Reported Pedestrian Hazards
- 11.B. Access Pathway and Roll & Stow Dispenser

Vice Chair Geisler noted the informational items provided in the packet and commented that Coastal Studies and ILC has Mobi-Mats providing how and best uses for these mats. She noted for the record that ADA Coordinator Krause has recommended the Board have on their next meeting agenda a budget discussion and include the purchase of these for the Community/Park Equipment that can be offered for use at the HERC or Bishops Beach, etc.

12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Pat Case, city resident, commented on the access issues especially the hole that is at the end of the sidewalk on Svedlund and it has not been addressed yet. He then commented on taking a position at ILC Board. Mr. Case then advocated for the Blue Path app, educating businesses, the Bunnell Building becoming ADA Accessible. He then reported that the Chamber of Commerce holds their meetings on an inaccessible second floor of a building that does not have an elevator. He recommended advising the Chamber regarding accessibility and his

excitement regarding the future Svedlund sidewalk which he believed would make it a very accessible world.

Cora Trowbridge, city resident, introduced herself and connections and personal experience with disabilities.

Vice Chair Geisler will forward an application to Ms. Trowbridge.

13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

14. COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Boardmember Parson expressed his appreciation for the assistance from Ms. Krause and keeping the Board running smoothly. He then expressed his appreciation for Mr. Case for attending the meetings and apprising the Board on the issues.

Vice Chair Geisler expressed her appreciation for Ms. Krause and wished her strength in dealing with her daughter's illness.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business before the Board, Vice Chair Geisler adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m. A Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Cowles Council Chambers at City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.



Renee Krause, MMC, Deputy City Clerk II/ADA Coordinator

Approved: February 9, 2023