

**CALL TO ORDER**

Session 24-01 a Regular Meeting of the ADA Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Donna Aderhold at 5:04 p.m. on February 8, 2024 from the Cowles Council Chambers, City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS ADERHOLD, GEISLER, LEPLEY, PARSONS, THORSRUD, SAFRA

STAFF: ADA COORDINATOR KRAUSE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER ENGBRETSSEN

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

SAFRA/GEISLER 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 October 12, 2023

GEISLER/PARSONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 12, 2023.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

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

A. Memorandum ADA 24-001 from ADA Coordinator re: February Update

ADA Coordinator Krause provided a review of her memorandum for the Board. She reported the following:

- Listing of the Actions of the Council since the October meeting
- Due to her work schedule she was unable to complete the Trails Transition Plan but believes that she will have the first draft ready for the review of the Board

- Expressed concern on not receiving any applicants to fill the vacancy and it might have been too soon to have amended the meeting time to 4:00 p.m. as this puts constraints on persons who still work or may not have child care in the day time.
  - o Boardmember Geisler had some ideas on rallying some applicants so we can wait until the April meeting to determine what approach to use.
- City Council would like to have a joint worksession on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and requested the Board to check their schedules
  - o It was determined that they would not have a quorum for that date.
    - City Clerk moved the date to Monday, August 19, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.<sup>1</sup>
  - o Boardmembers were encouraged to think of recommendations or conversation that they would like to have with City Council on such things as:
    - how the Board and Council interact
    - Directing items from Council to ADA Board for review and recommendation such as projects related to access to city facilities, events or programs or should they be reviewed by the ADA Coordinator
    - Budgeting for ADA Compliance

ADA Coordinator Krause responded to questions regarding the following:

- area blocked off in the airport was for the new ADA Family Restroom
- ADA Transition Plan for Sidewalks that was facilitated by the Public Works Department if that document would be incorporated into the Transition Plan, to be determined, it was briefly noted so the document will be reviewed and maybe the Trails Transition Plan will be expanded to include sidewalks.
- ADA compliance with the proposed Harbor Expansion Project that project was far in the future and since this also included the Federal Government and State ADA Compliance would be very much on the minds of those entities but when the time came recommendations can be offered by this Board and the City ADA Coordinator.

Economic Development Manager Engebretsen responded to question regarding Pressure Reducing Station on Ben Walters Sidewalk project.

Chair Aderhold provided more input on where in the development process the Harbor Expansion was at the current time. She requested a volunteer to provide the report to Council, she reluctantly agreed to provide the report hearing no immediate volunteer from the remaining boardmembers.

## **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Memorandum ADA-24-002 from Parks & Trails Planner re: Bayview Park Plan – ADA Review

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<sup>1</sup> This date will be reported in the April ADA Staff Report to the Board.

Chair Aderhold introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Economic Development Manager Engebretsen.

Ms. Engebretsen reviewed the memorandum provided and requested comments, suggestions or recommendations from the board. She noted that their recommendations would be incorporated into the plan to the limitations of the budget or phased in at a future date. Funding was coming from State leftover COVID funding, HART Roads and the Rotary Club, reporting that the City has received more than expected. She reviewed the proposed improvements, referring to the new site plan design provided by Corvus Design Landscape Architecture, and acknowledged that there was limited space but a permanent pad could be placed for a portable toilet which would make a nice feature at that park, the ADA parking space would be paved and connect to the proposed walkway that would enter into the park and curve up toward the northern edge along the western side of the park area, it would then turn into a mulched pathway across the play area which is currently gravel and that will be removed, proposed timber platforms for installation in phase two would provide play areas for children as a stage, timber bridge over the water which would act as a drainage feature. It was noted that the park was geared to the 5 and under crowd and as a local play park for young children, toddlers and infants.

Ms. Engebretsen facilitated discussion on the following:

- preference for a complete accessible walkway
  - o Use other ADA compliant materials than asphalt that may be cheaper
  - o Additional natural materials that would provide better traction and easier to maintain
  - o If you cannot do a fully accessible loop walkway then do not put it in and phase it in later
- All picnic tables should be accessible
- If the intent is to have an accessible park it should be accessible to all and all parts of the park should be accessible not just part
- It was appreciated that the Board was provided the opportunity to provide comment on the project

## **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. City Manager's Report
  - i. CM Report for City Council Meeting on January 8, 2024
  - ii. CM Report for City Council Meeting on January 22, 2024
- B. City of Homer Newsletter  
January 2024

## **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Pat Case, city resident, stated that he had a conversation with the State regarding the new audible intersection signals for Lake Street and Main Street intersections at the Sterling Highway and they have been purchased. The State has to schedule the electricians to do installation and they are at 50%

capacity, so he surmised it will probably happen this summer. Mr. Case expressed that he was really happy that the city will have two audible signals. He then reported that the City spent about \$60,000 to upgrade Lee Street and Fairview Avenue trails by widening and grading the trails flat and a resident with a son in a wheelchair was very elated. She had approached him while he was at Safeway stating that they can now walk from the High School to the Hospital, but now that its snowed it is not being maintained so it cannot be used by anyone unless they can follow the approximately one foot wide footpath that snakes through there. He requested that the city be informed that it needs to be cleaned up and maintained to allow winter use. Mr. Case then reported that the Storybook trail when the contractor was working on it created large divots in the space between the sign and the rock on the pathway, which filled with water then turned to ice. I believe that the contractor, East Roads Services should be contacted to fix that quagmire that they created last fall. He then requested to be a visitor at the next meeting so he could present his walking plan and whatever projects he was working on at the time.

Chair Aderhold noted that the Clerk will get him on the visitors list and expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board for providing the updates on things in the city that are working or not working.

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

Deputy City Clerk Krause commented that she was backing wearing dual hats again as they have an increase in advisory bodies but it is okay. It was nice while it lasted. She expressed it was nice to see everyone again and looks forward to another prosperous year.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE BOARD**

Boardmember Lepley expressed his apologies for being late to the meeting but he was having a time connecting and kept getting bumped off. He explained that he was able to reach out to the City IT Officer and he was able to walk him through it while vacationing in Colorado and he was currently in Arizona connecting to Alaska. He will be attending via Zoom again in April but will be back in Homer in May.

Boardmember Thorsrud commented that it has been an interesting half year since they last met, very happy to still be on this Board. She stated that her husband passed away in December and that it was somewhat expected and she will be undergoing foot surgery in March so would be looking for some assistance for approximately 9 weeks to help with picking up mail or taking her for a long road trip or whatever. So if anyone knew of someone looking for something to do she would appreciate the referral. Ms. Thorsrud expressed that she was doing okay, her daughters have been very helpful at the immediate expressions of condolences from the Boardmembers.

Boardmember Safra expressed her condolences and that Christine can count on her for some assistance. She expressed her appreciation for kicking it into gear for 2024 and it feels good working with the Staff, having Economic Development Manager Engebretsen present tonight discussing the park plan was wonderful. She opined that it was great to make it into an accessible park and hopefully they can do more accessibility into the planning as opposed to an afterthought of the plan. It is a

wonderful thing and why she serves on this particular Board. Ms. Safra expressed her appreciation to Mr. Case for attending the meeting.

Boardmember Parsons expressed his appreciation for Mr. Case reporting on those conditions and providing the examples and totally agreed with his statements. The winter maintenance has been coming up in circles that he travels especially noting that the State still plows snow onto the sidewalks rather than removing the snow. He has personally seen more students walking towards downtown from the various schools, and they are walking on the road since there is no way to walk on the sidewalk or side of the road due to the snow berms. Mr. Parsons expressed his appreciation for the viewpoints on the park plan and the perspective that came from the group.

Boardmember Geisler provided some information regarding the Independent Living Center for Ms. Thorsrud and wished her good luck on her surgery. She then acknowledged that she was the driving force to changing the meeting time back to 4:00 p.m. but would be amenable to changing it back if it helps them to fill the vacancy on the Board. She reported that she was speaking with the Clerk and knows of a couple of possible applicants so maybe they will be interested in applying before they amend the time again. She will send the Clerk an email regarding availability for a joint worksession.

Chair Aderhold reminded the Board about Accessibility of Ramps in the Harbor and requested the Clerk to invite a representative from the Port and Harbor about making the Harbor Ramps more accessible so they can have a project that is doable on the CIP and that will help keep accessibility in the forefront with the Harbor Expansion. She then announced that she was resigning from the Board as she had to divest some of herself from some things. Ms. Aderhold then noted that she is the last original member since it started and will remain very committed and aware of the group. She recognized the consideration and respectfulness given by each member. This group has done a lot of work and accomplished so much. She stated that there were two other Councilmembers that were committed to ADA issues.

The Boardmembers gave three cheers for Boardmember Donna Aderhold and all she had done for furthering ADA Compliance in Homer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Donna Aderhold adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m. The next regular meeting is Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, 99603 and via Zoom webinar.

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

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