

Session 22-06 a Special Meeting of the ADA Compliance Committee was called to order by Chair Aderhold at 5:00 p.m. on October 13, 2022, from the Cowles Council Chambers, City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.

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

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBER SAFRA (EXCUSED)

STAFF: ADA COORDINATOR KRAUSE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER ENGBRETSSEN

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Aderhold requested a motion to approve the agenda.

GEISLER/PARSONS 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

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Unapproved Minutes for the Special Meeting of August 15, 2022

Chair Aderhold requested a motion to approve the minutes.

PARSONS/GEISLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 2022.

There was a minor correction of public members name to Pat Case instead of Casey.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

A. City of Homer Transportation Plan presented by Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager and Brad Parsons, Independent Living Center

Chair Aderhold introduced the item by reading the title into the record.

Board Member Geisler and Parsons announced that they may have a conflict of interest as they are employed by the Independent Living Center (ILC) and the ILC has a contract with the City of Homer to work on the development of the Transportation Plan.

Chair Aderhold determined that for this item there is no conflict of interest as this is a presentation and there will be no action by the Board on this topic.

Brad Parsons provided a brief summary of his transportation related experience and then presented to the Board members using images of transportation within various locales in the United States. He spoke on the previous plans regarding transportation planning and the inclusion of people oriented transportation planning around corridors and routes used in the city.

Julie Engebretsen provided information on public outreach opportunities, presentations to all advisory bodies of the city, input from multiple surveys, focus groups, Community meetings conducted at the college campus, recognizing the need for a truck route, prioritization of new sidewalks, identification of new trail or non-motorized routes, special attention on Old Town section of Homer regarding traffic, pedestrian and parking and the city webpage dedicated to the project of the Transportation Plan update.

Ms. Engebretsen and Mr. Parsons facilitated responses to questions on the maps and entering the data from the public input, unintended consequences from measures implemented to slow down traffic, better signaling notification to drivers regarding pedestrians trying to cross Pioneer Avenue and various locations on the Sterling Highway in within city limits. They encouraged the Board members to complete the survey.

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

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

Chair Aderhold introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Ms. Krause.

Ms. Krause provided an overview of the draft Bylaws and the action requested of the Board.

The Board reviewed the draft bylaws and made corrections to the following:

- Line 6, Add an “S” and the word “Act” to Americans with Disabilities Act”
- Line 95, inset the word “and” after the word “September”

GEISLER/THORSRUD MOVED TO STRIKE “OR DISABILITY” FROM LINE 73 OF THE DRAFT BYLAWS.

Discussion ensued on the disability of the Chair person should not be a consideration, absence was plain enough for the Vice Chair to assume the duties of Chair if necessary. Concern was expressed by the members if all the Bylaws of the Advisory Bodies had that phrase and recommended they be amended.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

GEISLER PARSONS MOVED TO FORWARD THE DRAFT BYLAWS TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Creating Parks and Public Spaces for People of All Ages
- B. Memorandum from City Clerk re: Implementation of New Agenda Management Software
- C. Ben Walters Park Recognition Ceremony Hosted by the Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
- D. Advisory Board member Reappointment - Christine Thorsrud
- E. City Manager's Report for October 10, 2022

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Jill Moore, Inclusive Play Specialist, representing a playground manufacturer at the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) Annual Conference in Soldotna, reported meeting Parks Superintendent Matt Steffy who informed her about the ADA Board meeting involvement with the transition plan for parks, campgrounds and trails. She expressed how excited she was to visit Alaska and Homer and to experience the wildlife. She noted that Alaska though was not very accessible but her experience in Homer has been wonderful and the prospect of inviting disability into the town was very exciting. She stated that 1 in 4 Americans have a diagnosed disability and as of 2018 it was reported that \$58.7 billion dollars in travel recreation and tourism in the United States is spent by persons with disabilities. The study was conducted by a group called Open Door Foundation. She stated that there are plenty of reasons to ensure that persons with disabilities can come into public spaces and be able to use them. Ms. Moore reported trying to go to dinner at local restaurant in Old Town with her husband whom also uses a wheelchair and noted that while the parking was phenomenal access to the business was very difficult as they experienced with other businesses in town. They were able to take a water taxi which was very accommodating.

Ms. Moore expressed that the Board could work on getting information to the local business community regarding the benefits of being accessible in response to questions from the Board members.

Boardmember Geisler reported on an initiative that the ILC is working on, and application called Blue Path which is a crowdsourcing applications that looks as accessibility of businesses, facilities and it is similar to TripAdvisor or yelp and ranks the accessibility of the particular business or facility.

Pat Case, city resident, commented on attending City Council meetings promoting the sidewalk issues and that there is a paradigm shift of perceptions. He expressed his appreciation for the Transportation Plan and noted that at the last meeting bringing forward hazardous areas of concerns specifically the bottom of Svedlund, there is a huge hole approximately 2-3 feet from the access or beginning of the sidewalk pavement; Cracks appearing in the sidewalk in front of Beluga Lake Lodge that are deep and wide and could break an ankle and asphalt has a wide gap where you can cross from the Library, at the right turn into Safeway and there is a manhole/grate that a cane or walker can get stuck in which has

happened to him and he almost fell on his face. He commented on the idea of a symposium on wheelchair vacations hosted by the ILC and that the City should also support people in wheelchairs. Mr. Case reported on an effort to bring this forward by local residents.

Mr. Case stated that he does not usually travel on Lee Drive, but crosses on Svedlund on his way to Safeway or downtown as that is his usual path he travels in response to Boardmember Deadrick. He then added safety concerns and near misses he has experienced trying to cross at various crosswalks which have low visibility, expressing that flashing lights are needed to get driver's attention.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Boardmember Deadrick commented on the difficulties she had trying to access the meeting.

Boardmember Thorsrud commented on living almost her entire life being 100 percent able bodied and now that she is not she has realized that there are so many businesses who do not understand or simply do not consider how many people do not get out or visit a business due to accessibility. Whether it is sight, hearing or physical accessibility it gets much more difficult in the winter with the snow and ice. As provided tonight by Ms. Moore was a perfect example and common sense to offer accessibility for everyone no matter what.

Boardmember Parsons expressed his appreciation for the materials provided tonight regarding public spaces and believed it should be shared far wider than this Board. It was a fantastic article with consideration for all ages and abilities.

Chair Aderhold commented on the spots that Mr. Case brought to their attention and if Staff will please forwards them to the Public Works Department and maybe they can facilitate getting the issues addressed but some of them may not fall under the city responsibility. However, they may be able to bring it to the attention of the appropriate authority. Additionally, Chair Aderhold noted that City Council adopted a Resolution to be become a universally accessible city and spoke at the Chamber of Commerce on what it meant to become a universally accessible city and while the City cannot force local businesses to address accessibility this Board can encourage and advocate to businesses the benefits of accessibility. If we can have this topic on the November agenda for discussion to have a couple of Boardmembers speak at a Chamber meeting.

Boardmember Geisler suggested that they include speaking at a Rotary meeting too.

ADA Coordinator Krause suggested that they request to be added as a visitor on the Economic Development and Planning Commission meetings as well. She then commented that in her experience to get things done it is always best to advocate for yourself otherwise no one will see the benefits to taking action until they hear from those people who want the action, service, etcetera.

Chair Aderhold noted that she will be attending via Zoom for the next meeting as she will be attending a meeting in Cordova and will be in the airport when the meeting is scheduled to start. She then expressed her pleasure at having members of the public attending their meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business before the Board, Chair Aderhold adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m. A Special Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2022 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: November 10, 2022