

Session 17-05 a Regular Meeting of the ADA Compliance Committee was called to order by Chair Munns at 4:00 p.m. on May 15, 2017 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: Donna Aderhold, Tess Dally, Linda Munns

ABSENT: Joyanna Geisler, Pam Van Hoozer

STAFF: Melissa Jacobsen, Deputy City Clerk/ADA Coordinator  
Katie Koester, City Manager

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Approved by consensus of the Committee

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no public comments.

### **RECONSIDERATION**

### **APPROVAL OF SYNOPSIS**

A. March 2, 2017 Meeting Synopsis

The synopsis was approved by consensus of the Committee.

### **VISITORS**

### **PENDING BUSINESS**

- A. ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan
  - a. Discussion with Mike Illg, Community Recreation Coordinator Re: Community Recreation Programs and Accessibility

Mike Illg, Recreation Coordinator, expressed his appreciation for the committee's work as he is a person with a severe disability and has been an advocate for disability service, accessibility and etc. As an employee, the City has been very supportive of his needs.

Mr. Illg gave a brief overview of his time with the City and the transition from the former Community Schools to the current Community Recreation programs. He explained they hold most of their programs at the middle school and high school and a limited amount at the city

owned HERC building. He also reviewed the programs and events. He explained that he's involved with the Alaska Parks and Recreation Association which has multiple branches including aquatics, parks maintenance, recreation services and adaptive and therapeutic recreation, and they are a great resource for input about recreation for adaptive and therapeutic purposes. He noted his connection with Jeff Dick of Challenge Alaska who is another great resource and has coordinated with the ILC Trails program for some activities as well.

Regarding Community Recreation programs, Mr. Illg explained that there are people with disabilities who participate in the programs and while there isn't a formal policy in place, it's addressed through communication and other participants are willing to accommodate so that all abilities are able to participate. Regarding access, he explained the middle school and high school have some issues with their ramps and they are on a list to be done when funding is available through the school district. An issue at the high school is access to the upstairs mat room. There is an elevator at the high school but district policy is to keep it locked for several different reasons. He has a key and several years ago when a person in a wheel chair needed access he was able to assist. It's not an ideal situation but since it's school district policy, there isn't much that can be done.

There was brief discussion regarding the locked elevator being seen as a barrier to someone with a disability. Mr. Illg acknowledged their concerns and will look into signage with the school district.

Mr. Illg touched on access at the HERC gym. The building was built before the ADA and noted there are issues. At this time there is some uncertainty about the future of the building, but currently there is a demand for usage.

Mr. Illg expressed his willingness to help whether it's speakers, resources, or partners to help ensure accessibility to everyone.

Ms. Aderhold commented right now the committee's focus is the self-evaluation and transition plan. Once that's done it would be interesting to bring in some guest speakers and to look at ways to engage with more people and make the community more accessible and welcoming to more people.

Discussion ensued regarding programming and needs when facilitating classes as there is more than physical limitations. They touched on web access, language in publications for people who may need to request accommodations, and technology for hearing impaired.

b. Building survey status

Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen reported they had completed work on City Hall and the airport. There was brief discussion of some the barriers they found and that they will schedule some more times in June. She also reported she communicated with David Barton from Northwest ADA Center and he will be able to come to Homer in August.

Ms. Dally raised concern about the yellow columns in the trail on the spit, that the space between them isn't compliant. There was discussion they can look at them when they're at the harbor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

## **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

## **COMMENTS OF STAFF**

City Manager Koester expressed her appreciation to the committee for letting her join in and the work they are doing.

## **COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

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