

Session 23-03 a Regular Meeting of the ADA Advisory Board was called to order by Acting Chair Christine Thorsrud at 5:00 p.m. on May 11, 2023, from the Cowles Council Chambers, City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.

**PRESENT:** BOARD MEMBERS PARSONS, SAFRA, SORTER AND THORSRUD

**ABSENT:** BOARD MEMBERS ADERHOLD AND GEISLER (excused)

**STAFF:** ADA COORDINATOR KRAUSE, CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

PARSONS/SAFRA 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**

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- 5. A. Unapproved Meeting Minutes  
Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2023

PARSONS/SAFRA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 13, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.

There was no discussion

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

### **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

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

- 7. A. ADA Coordinator Report ADA 23-009

ADA Coordinator Krause presented report to the Board and announced that Board Member Deadrick submitted her resignation. They selected dates for members to report to Council as follows:

May 22<sup>nd</sup> - Board Member Sorter  
June 12<sup>th</sup> - Board Member Thorsrud

July 24<sup>th</sup>- Board Member Sorter (tentative)

## **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

### **PENDING BUSINESS**

#### 9.A. Status of Advocacy Efforts for ADA Compliance in Homer

Board Member Safra reported she talked to Economic Development Manager Julie Engebretsen who referred her to Devony Lehner at the Independent Living Center (ILC), who was out of the office. She does her own advocacy as a resident and offers suggestions when she sees issues at businesses, like moving a shovel away from a ramp way or a bucket from behind the restroom door would allow someone in wheelchair to get in. She's planning to meet with the Aspen Hotel to look at their housing.

Board Member Parsons commented regarding anticipated updates to the Blue Path mapping application ILC has been trying to use that will improve the service. He'll reach out to Ms. Safra when the updates are complete.

Board Member Christine noted ongoing issue with college entrance.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### 10. A. Developing a Strategic Plan & Goals AIR ADA 23-010

ADA Coordinator Krause reviewed the memorandum in the packet.

During discussion the Board touched on goal 1, Advocate for ADA Compliance Budget and questioned how to appropriately address Council. ADA Coordinator Krause explained her efforts to coordinate with the Public Works Superintendent for status updates for the existing Transition Plan and the need for Council to budget for more costly needs in the plan.

Regarding goal 3, Actively advocate for ADA compliance with local businesses, programs, and services. Board Member Safra noted that's right up her alley and it sounds good, but questions how they are supposed to do that because it's technically not what the Board is tasked to do. They'll need to be specific on how they meet their mission, and do that too.

There was discussion regarding economic development and if it's a \$60 billion tourism industry then they need to pay attention, and that's working with businesses. That kind of focuses on the City because that's our tax base. It was suggested that could be a lead in with the Homer News as it doesn't single out businesses but addressed the bigger picture and identified opportunity. Another suggestion was that it might be worthwhile to invite groups to come and let us know what they are working on in terms of accessibility, rather than Board Members going out individually.

It was suggested this be postponed to the next meeting for further discussion.

PARSONS/SAFRA MOVED TO POSTPONE THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND GOALS DOCUMENT UNTIL THEIR JUNE MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Acting Chair Thorsrud suggested at the next meeting they could begin drafting a list of potential entities to invite to present.

10. B. Scheduling Site Visits for City Trails Transition Plan

ADA Coordinator Krause explained in the process of gathering information for the packet she heard from Economic Development Manager Engebretsen who suggested the Board postpone this until possibly next summer because of development of the draft transportation plan, which will be presented to the Board for review. The Trails Criteria Manual is also being proposed for revision. The completion of those manuals may have bearing on the trails that are chosen for the Transition Plan to bring into compliance.

Board Members shared their concerns about waiting up to a year to start work on the Trails Transition Plan, issues of trail maintenance and potential for working with volunteers for trails maintenance.

Board Member Parsons suggested asking the folks working on the Transportation Plan to identify corridors that aren't recreation trails by their use and should be part of the pedestrian and non-motorized network.

PARSONS/SAFRA MOVED TO POSTPONE TO THE JUNE MEETING.

It was noted this was requested by Board Member Aderhold and they can postpone further if needed.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

11. A. ADA Annual Calendar 2023

11. B. City Manager's Report  
CM Report for April 24, 2023 City Council Meeting  
CM Report for May 8, 2023 City Council Meeting

Board Member Parsons gave a shout out to City Planner Abboud for all his efforts with Planning. He's worked with Mr. Abboud on projects and appreciates his professional and civic embracement for the community.

Board Member Safra explained what a Coast Guard City was and emphasized the importance of the designation.

11. C. City Monthly Newsletter  
May 2023 Newsletter

Acting Chair Thorsrud recognized city employees and the work they do for the community and Board Member Parsons recognized Matt Steffy for a presentation he gave at the State Trails Convention.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Jim Lapley, non-resident, commented he's been to the meetings before to address accessibility at the harbor and inquired about the vacancy on the Board and he was referred to the City Clerk's office for more information.

Board Member Parsons shared he learned about a lift that's used at a harbor in Boston, and the members commented regarding accessibility for people of all ages related to outdoor activities in our area.

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

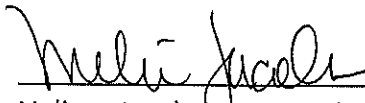
Staff had no additional comments.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

Board Member Parsons recognized Rachel Tussey for her work in the Clerk's office.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board Acting Chair Thorsrud adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

  
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Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: 6.8.23