

**1. CALL TO ORDER, 5:00 P.M.**

Session 23-04 a Regular Meeting of the ADA Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Donna Aderhold at 5:00 p.m. on June 8, 2023, from the Cowles Council Chambers, City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.

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

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBERS GEISLER (excused)

STAFF: ADA COORDINATOR KRAUSE, CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

PARSONS/SAFRA MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**

Pat Case, city resident, commented regarding the college ramp issue and suggested an aluminum caged ramp that would bolt into the concrete and cover the grate. He also commented regarding advocacy to inform the public to watch out for pedestrians at the crosswalks.

**4. RECONSIDERATION**

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- 5. A. Unapproved Meeting Minutes  
Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2023

PARSONS/SORTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

There was brief discussion noting the reference to \$60 billion should be read about \$60 billion, because it's a little less than that amount.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**6. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

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

**7. A. ADA Coordinator Report ADA 23-011**

ADA Coordinator Krause reviewed her report that was in the packet. Board Members signed up to report at upcoming Council meetings, and there was brief discussion regarding the status of the doors into the downstairs of City Hall. There isn't a plan currently to add automatic doors, but there is work being done on the threshold so the door will open more easily.

Chair Aderhold requested an updated facility transition plan at their next meeting to review what's been accomplished.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

**9. PENDING BUSINESS**

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

Board Member Safra commented she met with Jan Knutson at Homer Chamber of Commerce, and Devony Lehner from the Independent Living Center (ILC). She shared statistics comparing people with disabilities making about 3.4 trips per year compared to the able bodied population that makes about 3 trips per year with the difference in spending at about \$500 more per person with disabilities than without. She and Jan discussed doing an educational presentation in the fall after the 2023 tourist season is over and owners of the hospitality businesses are available. Goals of this effort would be to put a designation symbol and a section in the 2024 visitor's guide for businesses that are accessible, as well as providing information to businesses on barrier removal, and ways to promote accessible features. She shared some of their proposed planning ideas to make it a fun and exciting event for the businesses. Ms. Safra also noted the ILC's Accessible Homer webpage and an idea to combine to roll that over to the Chamber as one of their pages.

There was discussion on what the ADA Advisory Board's role would be. Ms. Safra explained she'll be meeting with Ms. Knutson again to discuss a date and venue, then she'll have more information. They touched on noticing the event and that event planning would need to be done at their meeting, ways to engage with the Economic Development Advisory Commission, and reporting to Council.

In response to the public comment regarding crosswalks, it was suggested an appropriate step would be addressing Council and encouraging them to have the City involved with these discussions, as it would go a long way. An example it was noted where Chief Robl commented on a KBBI Coffee Table about how to share the road with bicyclists during Bike to Work Week recently. Repainting crosswalks and signage is important for the visual recognition of crosswalk locations.

There was also conversation regarding childcare advocacy for ADA accessibility needs that are beyond wheelchair accessibility. Autism was used as an example of a need that was shared to emphasize the need for expanded accessibility in childcare.

9. B. Developing a Strategic Plan & Goals  
Memorandum ADA 23-012

ADA Coordinator Krause reviewed her memo that summarizes previous discussion and desired action by the Board.

There was discussion regarding adding a goal to prepare and review ADA Transition Plans. It was suggested that information in the Values, Roles & Responsibilities section might address that. There was support in adding it as a specific goal.

Chair Aderhold suggested changing goal 1 to read Advocate for ADA Compliance within the City with City Projects, then add under it reviewing the Capital Improvement Plan with a lens for ADA compliance within appropriate projects. The board discussed this and the need for the City to have involvement when things are being constructed to ensure they are compliant, and the importance of doing more because it's right instead of just doing the minimum.

ADA Coordinator Krause said she could have a revised draft for review at their next meeting.

PARSONS/THORSRUD MOVED TO POSTPONE THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND GOALS DOCUMENT THE JULY MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

9. C. Scheduling Site Visits for City Trails Transition Plan

ADA Coordinator Krause reviewed her conversation with Economic Development Manager Engebretsen who requests this be postponed until after the draft Transportation Plan comes before the Board for review. The plan will help the Board in choosing which trails to consider.

The Board addressed the Poopdeck Trail and Calhoun Trail as trails they should look at. The library trail on the western lot is planned for improvement through a grant. Poopdeck is identified as a pedestrian and bike trail, based on its signage and pedestrian routes need to be compliant to the extent possible. It's an important corridor to a lot of people, it's full of barriers that can easily be removed, yet they remain. It was noted there is a narrow section that's next to private property that creates an issue. There was also discussion of the Beluga Trail Boardwalk being non-compliant and one that members are interested in addressing. There is hesitancy to keep postponing this discussion, when there are areas that can be addressed fairly easily.

The group discussed staff capacity to begin site visits. Board members shared their availability and ADA Coordinator Krause said she will coordinate with staff and report back. It was requested that a map of City's trails be provided, that will be a good place to start.

Board Member Parson's requested they look at whether they want to schedule a September meeting as an upcoming agenda topic.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- 11. A. ADA Annual Calendar 2023
- 11. B. City Manager's Report  
CM Report for May 22, 2023 City Council Meeting

**12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Pat Case, city resident, commented regarding the All Persons Trail noting that it connects to the Beluga trails and was built for to be wheelchair accessible, but the transitions along the trail are ~~horrendous~~ **difficult for persons with limited mobility**. He also commented regarding survey work he's doing related to ADA accessibility and disturbing results related to curb cuts at the intersection of Main Street and Pioneer Avenue. He requested when the sidewalk goes in down Main Street to the bottom that the curb cut be repaired.

**13. COMMENTS OF THE STAFF**

There were no staff comments.

**14. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

Board Member Sorter shared her appreciation with these meetings and touching on the umbrella of disability and accessibility, she looks forward to more discussion on advocacy efforts. She shared regarding a friend walking on a trail with a stroller and it tipped over, and the importance of accessibility for all people.

Board Member Thorsrud shared her pleasure with these meetings and thanked staff for their quality work. She stressed the need to look beyond wheelchairs, because there are other accessibility items that assist with mobility.

Board Member Safra shared appreciation for staff. She commented that many disabilities are not wheelchair related, and with an aging population there is a need for appropriate benches with backs and spaced appropriately. These are things the City can do and the Board can advocate for, and she looks forward to making this a better place.

Board Member Parsons commented the City needs an ADA compliance professional expert on staff to be able to look at these things that are engineering matters. We heard a specific concern from an audience member near a sidewalk at Fairview and Main, and that a similar design will be implemented on an upcoming project. He asked how they are to share that information with people who can make that change.

Chair Aderhold shares the same concerns about who to contact. ADA Coordinator Krause said she will alert Public Works Director Keiser. Ms. Aderhold continued she's observed the issues that have been mentioned. She thanked everyone for their time.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Aderhold adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m. The next regular meeting is Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 5:00 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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Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: July 13, 2023