

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

Session 23-05 a Regular Meeting of the ADA Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Donna Aderhold at 5:00 p.m. on July 13, 2023, 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, SAFRA, SORTER, THORSRUD

STAFF: ADA COORDINATOR KRAUSE, CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

GEISLER/LEPLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

There was brief discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 Minute Time limit)**

Pat Case, city resident, commented regarding a correction to his comments in the June 8, 2023 meeting minutes.

**4. RECONSIDERATION**

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- 5. A. Unapproved Meeting Minutes  
Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2023

SORTER/LEPLEY MOVED TO ADOPT THE MINUTES.

PARSON/GEISLER MOVED TO POSTPONE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES UNTIL A PUBLIC COMMENT IS CORRECTED AS PER A PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was no discussion on the motion to postpone.

VOTE (postponement): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**6. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

- 6. A. City of Homer Capital Improvement Plan & Legislative Request FY2025  
Jenny Carroll, Special Projects & Communications Coordinator

Special Projects and Communications Coordinator Carroll reviewed the CIP and Legislative request preparation and approval process and explained the Board's role in reviewing projects and providing feedback for accessibility content and prepare to provide input at the next meeting. She provided updates on current projects and responded to questions from Board Members.

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

**7. A. ADA Coordinator Report ADA 23-013**

ADA Coordinator Krause reviewed her report that was included in the packet. The Board discussed concerns regarding Ordinance 23-43 that re-appropriates State Community Assistance Program funds in the FY23 Capital Budget from ADA Improvements for city facilities to other capital needs for the City. The Board also addressed reporting at City Council meetings.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

**9. PENDING BUSINESS**

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

Board Member Safra reported she's had a hard time connecting with the Chamber of Commerce but they're still trying to set something up regarding an education presentation with businesses in the fall.

ADA Coordinator Krause raised her question from the memorandum in the packet as to whether this agenda topic should be listed as a regular monthly report instead of a business item each meeting.

GEISLER/THROSRUD MOVED TO MOVE THE ADVOCACY EFFORTS TOPIC TO THE REPORTS SECTION ON A REGULAR BASIS FOR THE SAKE OF DISCUSSION.

Board Member Geisler commented that as Director of the Independent Living Center (ILC) she's conflicted on this topic because she does community advocacy on behalf of ILC. She noted that she has been absent for the last two meetings, but as a Board she would advocate that the City have an ADA inspector to ensure newly constructed businesses or ones making modifications are compliant with the ADA.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Chair Aderhold reported that current Council is interested in pursuing building code for the City.

**9. B. Developing a Strategic Plan & Goals  
Memorandum ADA 23-014**

ADA Coordinator Krause reviewed her memorandum.

Board Member Parsons noted the goal that the Board will review future City project plans and specifications to ensure ADA standards are followed, and expressed his opinion that's beyond the scope of this group. He suggested re-wording it "to communicate accessibility concerns with ADA standards in mind." There was consensus of the Board to make that change.

Chair Aderhold identified some minor corrections in wording. She also suggested moving number 4 to 1 since the ADA Transition Plans is one of the main reasons the group was established. There was consensus of the Board to make that change.

Board Member Parsons addressed goal 3 to actively advocate for ADA compliance with local businesses, programs and services. It reads that they're advocating for economic success instead of advocating for an inspector or codes. There are already community members advocating with local businesses and identified the Board role to focus on values, roles, and responsibilities where advocate, for example, for an annual budget line item. He suggested keeping the goal of number 3 as is, but remove the language in letter a. that follows.

Board Member Geisler agreed with removing a. and suggested including language regarding building code and building inspector, and/or for the City of Homer to be a model for ADA accessibility standards for the community.

Staff suggested rewording goal 3 to actively advocate for ADA compliance with City facilities, programs, and services in accordance with Title II of the ADA, and letter a. could address building code and a building inspector who has ADA compliance in mind. There was general agreement with the suggestion, also to include reference to Title 1 in the title and/or a letter b. that the City will be a model employer of persons with disabilities.

GEISLER/SORTER MOVED TO POSTPONE THE LANGUAGE ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND GOALS TO THE NEXT MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

9. C. Scheduling Site Visits for City Trails Transition Plan  
Memorandum ADA 23-015

ADA Coordinator Krause will reviewed her memorandum.

Board Members shared their availability for site visits and Chair Aderhold asked that Ms. Krause coordinate with staff and prepare a schedule.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### **10. A. City of Homer Capital Improvement Plan & Legislative Request FY2025 Memorandum from Special Projects & Communications Coordinator as backup**

Chair Aderhold noted this will come before the Board at their August meeting for action and opened the floor for discussion.

Board Members addressed-

- A potential new project for accessible parking at the Library, currently it doesn't drain properly and freezes over in the winter and possibly adding it as a specific project in the plan.
- Encouraging going beyond minimum requirements for things such as accessible picnic tables, and benches with backs.
- The Kachemak Shellfish Mariculture Association Kachemak Shellfish Hatchery and the need to address the marine mammal population hand in hand with that project.
- Homer Harbor Security Cameras cost is excessive when costs have come down.

Chair Aderhold encouraged members to review the information and think about other projects for the plan, and also to think about what their top 3 recommendations would be. If anyone has ideas, contact ADA Coordinator Krause for inclusion at their next meeting.

### **10. B. City of Homer Facilities Transition Plan – Amended Memorandum ADA 23-016 from ADA Coordinator as backup.**

ADA Coordinator Krause reviewed her memorandum and clarified when the other transition plans are completed they'll be compiled into one document.

Board Members noted the following-

- Hornaday Park Restrooms are not completed and language needs to be updated,
- Baycrest Overlook, clarify parking information,
- Library copy room door removal takes away the option to use the room as an overflow meeting space, other options might need to be addressed,
- Existing Homer Airport restroom deficiencies need to be addressed even with the addition of a compliant family restroom,
- Areas that were re-measured and found to have no compliance issue, and what to do with them since they are non-issues.

No action was taken.

10. C. City of Homer Parks, Play Areas and Campgrounds v2 Draft  
Memorandum ADA 23-017 from ADA Coordinator as backup

ADA Coordinator Krause reviewed her memorandum.

Board Members noted the following-

- Including Laura Haller with Fish and Wildlife assist with future survey of Beluga Slough trail and refuge.
- Timeline and cost impact level is not completed.

No action was taken.

## **11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

11. A. ADA Annual Calendar 2023
11. B. City Manager's Report  
CM Report for June 12, 2023 City Council Meeting  
CM Report for June 26, 2023 City Council Meeting
11. C. City of Homer Monthly Newsletter  
July 2023 Newsletter

Board Member Parsons provided a flyer and announced the Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration on July 26<sup>th</sup>, with a barbeque, games, and other events at the ILC.

Board Member Safra added that October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and suggested the Board find a way to recognize a business or city department that exemplifies good hiring practices. Chair Aderhold asked that be added to their next agenda.

## **12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Pat Case, city resident, expressed his concern about the funding being re-appropriated from ADA needs to other city needs. He said the Main Street intersection should be included with the Main Street sidewalk extension, and explained there's an avenue to change the scope of a job before it's built. He invited members to the ADA celebration and a short community walk on the All Persons Trail and the Beluga Slough Trail. He'll be at the Council meeting to invite them as well.

## **13. COMMENTS OF THE STAFF**

ADA Coordinator Krause thanked everyone for their input tonight and addressed the Community Assistance Funds application process.

## **14. COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBER (If Present)**

#### 14. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Board Member Safra shared her appreciation for the Board and thinks they're doing a lot of really good things for Homer, and thanked ADA Coordinator Krause.

Board Member Geisler is committed to putting some time and energy into reviewing the CIP projects and coming up with her priorities, as well as the facilities and parks plan. She hopes to see them at the celebration.

Board Member Parsons thanked ADA Coordinator Krause for all her work and Mr. Case for his comments at the end of the meeting.

Board Member Thorsrud said it's a pleasure to work with everyone on the Board, they're the best meetings she's attended. She appreciates everyone's opinions and thanked ADA Coordinator Krause.

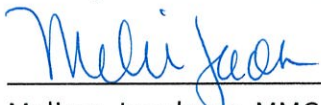
Board Member Sorter shared her appreciation for the Board and ADA Coordinator Krause. She's still learning and appreciates the examples they set for her.

Board Member Lepley thanked everyone for making his first meeting comfortable.

Chair Aderhold shared her appreciation for the group and the work they've done. Their work keeps ADA issues at the forefront for the City.

#### 15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board Chair Aderhold adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m. The next regular meeting is Thursday, August 10, 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.



Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: August 10, 2023