

CALL TO ORDER

Session 23-08 a Regular Meeting of the ADA Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Donna Aderhold at 4:59 p.m. on October 12, 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, THORSRUD

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBER SAFRA

STAFF: ADA COORDINATOR KRAUSE & DEPUTY CITY CLERK PETTIT

AGENDA APPROVAL

LEPLEY/GEISLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

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

RECONSIDERATION

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

- A. Board & Commission Annual Training – Melissa Jacobsen, City Clerk
Memorandum from City Clerk

City Clerk Jacobsen thanked the Board for having her. She started off her presentation by explaining to the Board that the City Clerk's Office conducts annual training with all of the boards and commissions the meeting after appointments have been reviewed. This is done so that new people joining the board can get the training they need, and it also serves as a nice refresher for everyone else.

Ms. Jacobsen then went on to describe the history of the ADA Advisory Board and how it came to be what it is today. She outlined the duties and responsibilities of the Board, and she gave a dense summary of the Open Meetings Act and some common definitions associated with it. The presentation also covered appropriate behaviors in terms of communication among board members, what the Chair's responsibilities are, and finally how to make motions and take care of business.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Unapproved Special Meeting Minutes for September 7, 2023

GEISLER/LEPLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

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

A. Staff Report for October 2023
Memorandum ADA 23-025

ADA Coordinator Krause provided a verbal update to the Board. She outlined the following that she felt was relative to the Board:

- Ordinance 23-49, which deals with creating a department of information technology, a department of the library, and a community development department has been postponed until January 8th. Chair Aderhold added that Council has received some public comment with an interest in having recreation be its own standalone department rather than having it lumped in with community development.
- Ordinance 23-48, regarding regulations with animals, domesticated and wild, was adopted with substantial updates.
- Resolution 23-087, awarding a contract to East Road Services to upgrade the Story Book Trail that will bring the trail into ADA compliance. The trail is currently being worked on and they should have it complete before winter sets in.
- The design services contract for the Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan have been awarded to Corvus Design. A status update will be provided at the PARCAC meeting on Thursday, October 19th.
- Resolution 23-090 has been adopted and Ms. Krause also informed the Board members that the design of the Svedlund Avenue sidewalk was in the supplemental packet.
- Resolution 23-093 for an ADA lift system at the harbor wasn't added to the mid-range section of the Capital Improvement Plan.
- The re-pave and re-grade project at the Homer Public Library parking lot wasn't re-added due to comments received from Public Works staff that they are going to wait and see how the mitigation measures already taken work out. Ms. Krause did note that it was included in the ADA transition plan for city facilities.
- Resolution 23-102, awarding \$110,000 to Beachy Construction for shoulder construction on the West Fairview shoulder for non-motorized transportation.
- Ms. Krause added that she is working on the trail site audits. She hasn't received the photos, which is a minor hold back, and she's having trouble find the time in her work schedule to fit in the trail audits. She is hopeful to have it submitted for Council review and approval in February.

- Ms. Krause lastly noted that there is ADA funding that's designated for spot improvements, repairs, etc. within the HART roads financial plan.

Board Member Thorsrud inquired about the recreation department being separate from the parks department. Chair Aderhold informed her that the City doesn't have a recreation or parks department at this time. She noted that for recreation there is one full-time worker and one part-time worker. She added that the City Manager is seeing a lot of synergies in placing the recreation employee in a new department that he is wanting to form called Community Development, which will also include the Economic Development Manager and the City Planner.

Boardmember Parsons was curious as to whether or not the City has an ADA inspector. ADA Coordinator Krause informed him that as of right now, the City doesn't have an ADA-certified inspector. Further, Mr. Parsons asked if that would be something that the Board as a body could recommend before a building code switch takes place. Chair Aderhold chimed in, noting that sidewalks are very different from building code. Ms. Krause followed up her comment by stating that sidewalks also usually fall within right-of-ways, and there are federal regulations and ADA requirements for pedestrian access within right-of-ways. Mr. Parsons also brought it to the Board's attention that the United States Access Board has finalized their new public right-of-way accessibility guidelines, and he fears that the new sidewalks being designed on Svedlund will be out of compliance once the new guidelines are enacted. Ms. Krause said that she will convey the concerns to the Public Works Director Jan Keiser.

Mr. Parsons also voiced his disappointment that the ADA lift system at ramp 7 didn't make it into the Capital Improvement Plan. Chair Aderhold noted that she was at the meeting where that decision had been made, and that it wasn't added due to the specifics of the design that won't work down at the harbor. She suggested that the Board invite someone from the harbor as a visitor to one of their meetings to try and hash out the details. She stressed to the Board the importance of working collaboratively with the Port and Harbor to achieve a solution. Board member Lepley added that his main motive for joining the Board was to see this project through at the harbor. He stated that the ramp is deemed ADA compliant, but that no one would want to go down that ramp in a wheelchair. Ms. Aderhold added that being technically compliant and being possible are sometimes two different things.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule
Memorandum from City Clerk

ADA Coordinator Krause directed the board members to the memo in the packet and reviewed the proposed dates with them. She inserted that the Board can add or remove meetings, or leave it as is.

GEISLER/THORSRUD MOVED TO AMEND THE MEETING START TIME TO 4:00 P.M. FOR THE 2024 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE.

Ms. Krause added that when the meeting times were changed to start at 5:00 p.m., the Board received an applicant right away. Discussions continued about the pros and cons of starting meetings earlier. Board member Geisler noted that they could always change the time back if it doesn't work out.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

LEPLEY/GEISLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Informational Flyer on Rapid Flashing Beacons for Heath Street Project
- B. Advisory Board Annual Calendar 2023
- C. City of Homer Monthly Newsletter – October 2023
- D. City Manager's Report for City Council October 9, 2023

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Pettit referred back to the ADA lift system at ramp 7, noting that he was at the meeting that the Port and Harbor decided to leave it off of their recommended projects. He added that it wasn't that the Port and Harbor didn't want to do the project, rather that the design the reviewed wouldn't work at the harbor given the drastic tide differences. He thanked the Board for a good meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Lepley thanked the Chair and the Clerk for the clarification on the lift system that Mr. Parsons brought up.

Boardmember Thorsrud thanked City Clerk Jacobsen and the Board for a good meeting. She added that she's hopeful to set a specific date to have someone from the harbor join the Board in regards to the ADA lift system discussion.

Boardmember Parsons thanked everyone for a good meeting. He noted that there's 15 pages on the Svedlund Sidewalk document that seem really important for this body to consider at this point. He requested that the item be on the next agenda since members didn't receive the supplemental packet until moments before their meeting.

Boardmember Geisler added that she thinks the group has some homework to do in order to dive into the detail of some of the items in the packet. She thanked the Board for a good meeting.

Chair Aderhold added that Pat Case was a visitor at the last Council meeting. He presented his walking plan and he is planning on getting the agenda for a future ADA meeting to present to this Board as well.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Geisler adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m. The next regular meeting is Thursday, November 9, 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.

Zach Pettit
ZACH PETTIT, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: Feb. 8, 2024