

Human Resources

Office of Accessibility



Meeting Minutes

ADA Community Forum 2024 – 1st Quarter

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Microsoft Teams (7 people in attendance)

Subject: Residents can come learn about a variety completed, ongoing and future improvements throughout the city as well as an update on web accessibility successes and progress.

Accommodations: Captioning via Microsoft Teams

Introduction: Rob Hernandez, ADA Manager opened with introductions. Meeting began at 1:04 p.m.

Rob: Introduced the Office of Accessibility Staff and welcomed participants.

Project updates.

Current Projects

ADA Coordinators Michael Killebrew, Jason Crowe, and Project Manager Timothy Hartong provided updates on the following projects that are currently underway:

Meadows Park

Tim spoke about the recently completed project that improves accessibility to the entrance of Meadows Park as well as repairs several stretches of non-compliant concrete throughout the park. Two additional curb ramps were added for access from locations on Mt. Werner Cir. This project is a collaboration with the Parks Dept.

Meadows Park Community Center

Mike discussed the installation of new, ADA compliant interior signs at the center.



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Antlers Dog Park

Jason spoke about the progress at Antlers Dog Park including the recent synthetic turf installation. The park will be fully accessible with three additional on-street parking stalls to be added at the entrance.

Rock Ledge Ranch – Chambers Way

Tim discussed the recent completion of two new curb ramps crossing Chambers Way into the Rock Ledge Ranch historic sight. The ramps were the result of neighborhood requests for improved access on that side of the park.

Garden of the Gods – High Point Overlook

Tim detailed the new ramp at High Point Overlook at Garden of the Gods. The ramp will access the pergola-covered scenic vista area.

Upcoming Projects

Westside Community Center

Tim spoke about the ongoing work being done at the entrance and interior of the Westside Community Center's west building.

Community Gardens

Jason updated the progress on the construction of ADA-compliant raised garden beds. Therapeutic Recreation is reaching out to some local high school shop classes about constructing the beds, and Tim plans to add a concrete pad at the entrance to the gardens at Westside Community Center to accommodate four garden beds.

Rock Ledge Ranch Kiosk

Tim spoke about the current status of the kiosk for Rock Ledge Ranch which will provide an alternative tour experience for those areas that cannot be made accessible. City IT is currently working with a vendor to finish up the project, and Tim is hopeful it will be in operation by the next ADA forum.

Fire Station 16 / Oak Meadows Park

Tim discussed this project which will provide improved accessibility to Oak Meadows Park as well as the adjacent Fire Station 16. This is a collaborative project with Parks which is adding a new, compliant playground and other amenities. OA also plans to improve accessibility to the fire station's community room.

Westside Community Center

Tim spoke about work being done at Westside Community Center including a new, compliant entrance and the addition of a lift inside.



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Community Gardens

Jason said the Office of Accessibility plans to place as many as eight, ADA accessible raised garden beds at several community gardens. He said they plan to put three at Westside Community Center and are looking at other suitable locations.

Rock Ledge Ranch Kiosk

Tim discussed progress on finishing the accessible kiosk at Rock Ledge Ranch. The kiosk will feature accessible video tours of ranch locations that cannot be made accessible due to site constraints and fundamental alterations. Tim said OA recently hired a vendor to help complete technical work required to make the kiosk accessible.

Fire Station 16 / Oak Meadows Park

Tim detailed future work at Fire Station 16 and Oak Meadows Park that includes improvements to the accessible route from the parking lot to the station community room, a new playground and concrete work on existing routes.

CSPD Gold Hills Repaving

This is a collaborative effort between OA and CSPD, according to Mike. He explained that OA saw the opportunity to piggyback on the CSPD parking lot re-paving project in order to make some corrections to the accessible stalls.

CSFD Stations 24&25

Mike discussed OA's technical assistance on these two CSFD projects. Station 24 is a new station to be built off of New Life Drive in the northeast part of town, while station 25 is a remodel of a Century Fire District station that has been acquired by the City.

Title VI and Language Access

Paulyna Johnston, Language Access Coordinator

Paulyna introduced herself and briefly explained Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, nation of origin, or any other protected class under State or Federal law. Also, in compliance with such Title the City has developed a Language Access Plan to include the 4- factor analysis and all the information to access/offer language services to the limited English Proficiency (LEP)community.

The OA has worked with different departments and divisions providing them with the information/ instructions to obtain language services.

Web Accessibility Update

Robert Hernandez, ADA Manager

Rob discussed HB21-1110 and plans for the City to hire a new web accessibility coordinator. The position will be housed in IT but work closely with the Office of Accessibility.

Rob thanked everyone for attending and opened for questions/comments.



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Questions.

Samantha Radomski asked about the new web accessibility coordinator positions. Rob explained that it will be housed out of the IT department but will work closely with OA.

Vickie Pacheco asked several questions about the Trackchair Program. Jason explained that many of the details are currently being worked out, but that there will be a calendar listing where the chairs will be and when with the ability for participants to sign up for a time slot on that day at the specific trail. He added that the new program coordinator will transport the chairs to and from the trails, and that the chairs themselves are housed with the Therapeutic Recreation Program at the Westside Community Center.

Leonard Timm asked about the lack edge protection on the ramp at the Garden of the Gods High Point Overlook. Tim explained that OA considered that and decided it wasn't necessary because the curb is only 5" high, and the ramp slope is less than 5% which means it does not require ramp provisions.

Mr. Timm also asked about the number of parking stalls required at the Gold Hills Substation parking lot. Mike explained that only three are required for the front public lot and that the other lots shown on the map are gated off for police staff only.

Question in Chat:

Q from Sheridan Powell: Hi there! Is there any sort of anticipated timeline for the TrackChair availability? Visit COS has already received some questions about it from people who are very excited to utilize them 😊

A from Tim Hartong: Hi Sheridan! Therapeutic Recreation is the lead on the program, so I don't want to give you the wrong dates. If you want to send me an email @ timothy.hartong@coloradosprings.gov, I can make the ask and send you an update when they've hired that position / identified a target start date.

Rob ended meeting and thanked all who attended.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:56pm.



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