

Human Resources

Office of Accessibility



Meeting Minutes

ADA Community Forum 2024 – 2nd Quarter

Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Microsoft Teams (10 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 1:05 p.m.

Rob: Introduced the Office of Accessibility Staff and welcomed participants. He also discussed the current status of the vacant web accessibility position.

Michael Killebrew, Title II ADA Coordinator: Mike provided a brief summary of the National ADA Symposium that he and Rob attended in Minneapolis, MN earlier in the month.

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:

Rock Ledge Ranch Kiosk

Tim discussed the new accessible kiosk at the Ranch. “We’re pretty happy with how this turned out,” he said. The kiosk features virtual tours of many areas at the site that do not meet accessibility requirements. Tim explained how doing so would fundamentally alter the purpose of the Ranch, but the kiosk provides a great alternative for those with mobility disabilities.



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Antlers Dog Park

Jason spoke about the completion of the universally accessible Antlers Dog. The ribbon cutting took place on May 16. The park features two on-street accessible parking stalls with a flush mount curb that leads to the turf-surfaced dog park.

Fire Station 16 / Oak Meadows Park

Tim discussed this nearly completed project which will provide improved accessibility to Oak Meadows Park as well as the adjacent Fire Station 16. The project not only adds an ADA compliant playground, but also corrects the accessible parking stalls and the accessible routes from the parking lot up to the playground as well as to the fire station community room.

Deerfield Community Center

Mike provided an update on the new ADA compliant sign package that was recently installed at the community center.

Community Gardens

Mike discussed the accessible planter box project at the Westside Community Gardens. OA procured used cedar planking from Parks that were recently replaced on a pedestrian bridge. The construction will be completed by Nathan Killebrew and other volunteers as part of Nathan's Eagle Scout project. The accessible planters are expected to be completed by the end of the month.

Colorado Springs Airport

Jason provided an update on the newly complete renovations at the airport. Accessibility improvements include new, compliant restrooms, corrections in the nursing room as well as the service animal relief area, and hearing loops added at every gate. The OA team also installed a counter loop at the information desk in the baggage area.

Attendee Kevin Worley voiced his concerns about poor treatment from TSA staff to those with disabilities. He said it might be valuable to set up a meeting with FHA and TSA staff to discuss how they could handle some situations better.

Upcoming Projects

CSPD Gold Hills Repaving Tim provided an update on work being done at Gold Hills Police Substation that will include parking improvements and new curb ramps and accessible routes leading to the entrance.

Quail Lake Community Park Tim detailed accessibility improvements that will be happening at Quail Lake this fall. They include corrected parking, as well as accessible routes to the playground, basketball court, restrooms and picnic area.



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Wasson Park Jason provided information on the upcoming project at Wasson Park that is to include accessible routes from the new on-street accessible parking on the west side of the street in front of the football stadium crossing to the east side to the baseball field seating.

Pioneers Museum Mike updated attendees on work being completed at Pioneers Museum that will feature a new gallery area in what was formerly a closed off court room as well as a new and ADA accessible front service counter that is being constructed out of the old judge's bench.

Parks Ranking Tim discussed a project OA is undertaking that will rank all parks in Colorado Springs by their priority of accessibility. Ranking criteria includes the number of current findings in a park, it's proximity to a universally accessible park, pedestrian traffic, unique amenities, how close it is to a school and other factors.

Title VI and Language Access

Paulyna Johnston, Language Access Coordinator

Paulyna 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.

Paulyna provided an update on

Web Accessibility Update

Robert Hernandez, ADA Manager

Rob mentioned how Colorado's HB21-1110 was mentioned at the National ADA Symposium by Ken Nakata, Director of Accessibility and Aging at Hewlett Packard. Rob said Nikata praised Colorado for being light years ahead of the rest of the country and singled out Colorado Springs as a prime example.

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

Questions.

Vickie Pacheco said she recently travelled via the Colorado Springs Airport and asked a volunteer which gates had hearing loops, but the volunteer did not know about them. **Jason** explained that the loops were just being installed and the first phase will have them in gates 2,4 and 6.



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Leonard Timm asked if OA has a park inventory with park “accessibility features, grades, etc.” **Mike** shared how OA just started a park rating system based on several factors. Mike explained that listing parks as “accessible” is tricky because no park is ever going to be fully accessible due to constant changes in condition, erosion and equipment degradation.

Mr. Timm Inquired about anyone rating trails for accessibility in the City. Mike said OA has heard of some groups that may be interested in doing such a project but that we have not met with any of them.

Mr. Timm asked if any of the videos on the Rock Ledge Ranch kiosk are available at home on the internet. Tim said they are not right now but may be in the future.

Mr. Timm asked if OA can put up addresses for each of the projects. OA agreed to do that for the next forum meeting.

Mr. Timm for clarification on where the seating will be at Wasson baseball field. Tim provided that information.

Mr. Timm said he is also interested in a meeting with TSA.

Mr. Timm said he appreciates that the Office of Accessibility is thoughtful on how they spend money and said OA is doing a great job.

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 2:22pm.



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