

Human Resources

Accessibility Division



Meeting Minutes

ADA Community Forum 2023 – 3rd Quarter

Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Microsoft Teams (4 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 Google Meets

Introduction: Rob Hernandez, ADA Manager opened with introductions. Meeting began at 1:02 p.m.

Tim Hartong: Instructed those in attendance how to turn on real-time captioning.

Rob: Briefly discussed the City's remediation process as well as the meeting agenda.

OA Support to Community Events:

Jason: We helped provide support to a couple of events locally in the way of setting up a portable hearing loop at two meetings. The first was

Project updates.

Current Projects



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ADA Manager Rob Hernandez, ADA Coordinators Michael Killebrew, Jason Crowe, and Project Manager Timothy Hartong, provided updates on projects that are currently underway or getting ready to launch. Among the projects:

Swing High:

Mike: Swing High Playground was the city's first universally accessible play area, however, it lacked accessible parking. We were able to add four accessible parking stalls – including two van spaces. We also added a pad for porta potties which are in place when the permanent restrooms are closed after the summer.

Antlers Dog Park:

Jason: We are excited for the City's first fully accessible dog park located in the first third of Antler's park just behind the hotel. It will feature a full turf surface, and our part is adding some accessible parking at the entrance along the street. That includes access aisles that will tie in to a new curb ramp and new concrete. There are some challenges there because the park is at the bottom of a hill, so drainage is a factor, which means we have to consider that when moving any curb and gutter for parking stalls.

Rock Ledge Ranch Kiosk

Tim: We had hoped to install the kiosk at Rock Ledge Ranch early this summer before programming there resumed. However, with the departure of our Web Accessibility Coordinator, our IT department is struggling to accomplish the work themselves. This project has helped to identify some gaps that exist in the knowledge and capabilities of our IT staff when it comes to accessibility. In the short term, we are involving a consultant to teach our IT department how to successfully integrate the hardware we are planning to deploy.

Community Gardens:

Jason: The Office of Accessibility has designed an accessible raised garden bed for our community garden and will be working with the Therapeutic Recreation Program, The Office of Innovation and

Sertich Ice Center

Tim: This project will provide restrooms that are compliant with the ADA on the north side of the Ice Center. Demolition of the existing restrooms was completed, and now we are working with the contractor and their plumbers to adjust how and where the various fixtures are mounted. The project should be completed in a couple of weeks.



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Upcoming

Fire Station 16 / Oak Meadows Park

Tim: This project will provide compliant parking at, and a compliant route to, the fire station which contains a community room. Work is scheduled to begin the week of October 2nd.

Westside Community Center

Tim: Our architect has provided preliminary drawings for this project back to us, and they've forwarded the drawings to their structural and electrical engineers for review. These plans will then go to the Regional Building Department, and the City will award the work to a general contractor.

CSPD Evidence Building

Mike: Evidence Building on East Rio Grande. The accessible parking was on the other side of the lot and not accessible. We are putting them on the close side to the entrance and creating an accessible sidewalk from those stalls as well as getting the route right from on-street parking.

Prospect Lake Beach House

Jason: In addition to the work we just finished at the south end of the lake at Swing High, we are adding some exterior accessible routes from parking to the beach area. This is necessary because the old route was through the building, and now that the YMCA is no longer a partner, that building is closed most of the week. In addition to the route, we are also laying some concrete to add routes to both basketball courts and the drinking fountain near there.

FS 16/Meadows Park

Tim: Meadows Parks is directly across the street from the Meadows Park Community Center. Sections of the park are in very bad condition, so OA is partnering with the Parks Department to replace much of the concrete at the site.

Playground Rubber Tile Replacements

Tim: Our Office was approached by the Parks Maintenance staff about replacing some of the rubber tiles at a number of our neighborhood parks around the City. These rubber tiles provide a modicum of access to playgrounds that are still surrounded by sand. This is a means to provide – again – a limited amount of access to neighborhood parks around the City that are not our “flagship” parks like John Venezia, Swing High, etc.

Web Accessibility Update

Rob: Even though Kevin left us we support him in influencing positive change at that level that will help cities and municipalities throughout the state.



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We started this work four years ago, and then 2.5 years ago we drafted an admin reg. and then created the Web Accessibility Transition Plan outlining a phased approach on how we are going to achieve compliance. We did this in accordance with WCAG 2.0 and then WCAG 2.1.

Title VI and Language Access

Paulyna Johnston, Language Access Coordinator

Paulyna: In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Executive Order 13166, the City of Colorado Springs has developed a Language Access Plan to provide effective oral and written communication for qualified residents and visitors with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) so they can participate equally in the City's programs and activities.

The Office of Accessibility has been actively working on the design of the Citywide LAP, and the access to Translation and Interpreting services by different departments and divisions.

Tim: I want to give Paulyna a shout out because she also provided accommodation to the Mayor's Listening Tour by providing Spanish language interpreter services at one of his stops.

Conclusion:

Rob: The City is growing and I can't speak for the past, only for the present and future. Our job is to continue to remove barriers for citizens to the maximum extent feasible. Our transition plan is a big transition plan, and everything we do and are striving to accomplish. We are chipping away at this, and we know we have a lot to do, I just ask everyone's patience in this process as we look for improvements to come and are open to suggestions. These forums vary in size in terms of participants, but I really appreciate those of you who are always participating. It shows that your care but also that you want to be part of the solution.

Bridget Seritt introduced herself.

Questions.

Leonard Timm: The very first fire station slide you had, are people going to be able to back out once in this stall?



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Tim: I acknowledge the concern, and I struggled with that myself, but we may ask the contractor to eliminate the two spaces on either side.

Vickie: On your web page, you have a page for loop locations. I noticed it is not updated.

Rob: As we add more locations, we will update that. We haven't had any new additions in 2023. What is there is what is available.

Vickie: Will the airport looping meet the IEC standards?

Mike: That is a good question. I know the plan is going to be in each terminal. As far as the standards, I honestly don't know. That is something we can look into.

Rob: The equipment they use will have to meet that. I would think the answer is yes because those are the standards that need to be met.

Vickie: Will bids be solicited for the airport looping project and will it be able to be tested before it goes live.

Rob: The City and the airport are required to solicit competitive bids for any and all projects.

Mike: This is in the secured area of the airport, and there are flights daily and activity daily. For security reasons I can't really envision them allowing a group of people to freely go in there and test it. I am not sure what their plan is in terms of testing.

Vickie: The City hosted a Renter's and Tenant's rights meeting last night, and I asked for captions. It was a Zoom meeting and I believe the host needed to turn on the captions and did not.

Rob: Can you please get me that specific information and I will look into it? I know Zoom has some limitations when it comes to captioning.



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Kevin McDaniel said hello.

Rob introduced Jeffery Fryer, Intern.

Chat Comments and Questions:

[1:35 PM] Miggity Mac (Guest)

Ayyyy!



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