

Meeting Minute

ADA Focus Group – Meeting #1

Date 9/12/17

Time 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Attendees:

- Bill Benson,
- Crys Donovan,
- Catalina Angel
- Merrily Shirey
- Kerry Jackson
- Ha Yang (City's project manager),
- Tim Gilbert (consultant MIG)
- Heather Buczek (consultant MIG)

The meeting began with a series of introductions and discussion of each persons' interest in the City's ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. This was followed by an overview of the project tasks, schedule, and a discussion of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The focus group attendees were then asked to discuss strengths and opportunities, challenges and issues, followed by a discussion of planning priorities. The conversation covered a wide range of content areas and the following summarizes the feedback provided as it relates to City facilities and policies.

Strengths and Opportunities

- Attendees found the Recreation Center, Senior Center, Fire Station and City Hall to be relatively accessible with very few issues.
- The pedestrian facilities around the Civic Center were noted as being in good condition and working.

Challenges and Issues

- Parking:
 - There are not enough spaces when you take into consideration the programming of the City's facilities - the minimum is not enough and with the increase of those using placards there are consistent capacity issues;

- There is not enough enforcement of untagged vehicles in accessible parking spaces citywide; and
 - Is there a way to have private businesses more accountable?
- Sidewalks throughout the city are discontinuous and those with mobility devices are forced to enter the roadway.
 - It was noted that the city is beginning the process of developing a non-motorized transportation plan where several of the items discussed will be addressed.
- Multiple modes of communication are needed from the City.
 - There is a big push for everything to be digital communication and the only communication that is not via the website or email is the City's recreation guide, more communication through direct mailing and other methods is needed.
- Recreation programs:
 - Customer service staff need better training on managing calls involving disabilities: answering calls and registering participants with special needs; and
 - There is some question as to the fee structure for some of the recreation classes.

Planning Priorities

The focus group was presented a draft list of priorities for both building and park facilities and the right-of-way. One participant noted that maintenance and available funds should be a consideration, but the group generally felt the list was comprehensive, but will give the list some further thought and consideration.

Draft Priorities City Facility & Park:

- Level of use by the public: Facilities that receive a high level of public use receive a high priority;
- Program uniqueness: Some programs are unique to a building, facility, or park and cannot occur at another location;
- Geographic distribution: By selecting a range of facilities that are distributed throughout the City, the City can ensure maximum access for all residents;
- Citizen Rights and Responsibilities: Facilities where services are provided to exercise citizen rights—participation in Council and Commission meetings, access to elected officials, facilities where taxes are paid, permits and licenses are obtained, etc.
- Identified Complaints: Efforts should focus on City facilities where there have been accessibility complaints.

Draft Priorities City Right-of-Way Facilities:

- Location of citizen complaint/request (ADA Title II program access);
- Location serving government offices and public facilities;
- Location serving transportation;
- Location serving commercial district and employers; and
- Location serving other areas.