

**Montpelier ADA Committee:
Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2021**

Attendance: Tom McArdle – ADA Coordinator, Arne McMullen – Recreation Department Director, Cameron Niedermayer - Assistant City Manager, Jack McCullough – City Council Representative, Dianne Richardson, Chris Lumbra – Building Inspector, Kevin Casey - Community Development Coordinator, Priscilla Fox.

Also in attendance: Steve Whitaker.

Introductions and welcome: The meeting was called to order by the Acting Chair, Tom McArdle.

Approve agenda – action suggested – members should review and approve the agenda, including the order of the agenda, as well as identifying items to be added under “other business”:

Opportunity for public comment: Steve Whitaker mentioned that the Bashara and Heney lots haven't been connected to the walkability path. Cameron mentioned that those are private lots. Tom responded that there is no requirement for a connection to these lots and the path is fully ADA compliant. The issue is a matter of convenience which city staff attempted to address during path development and subsequently as part of the hotel/parking garage projects.

He also mentioned that some of the automatic doors at the Transit Center haven't been wired yet. He watched someone in a wheelchair struggle with the door since it hadn't been wired. Tom agreed the doors are fitted with mechanical operation systems and therefore must work properly. It was noticed during a site inspection last May and had understood the issue had been brought to the attention of the operator, GMTA. City staff will follow-up.

He then mentioned the conditions of the sidewalks and curbs. People have tripped on the sidewalks and mentioned specifically the walk near Bethany Church as well as a drainage management issue. Tom said he would look into it and discuss with DPW. He is contemplating an ADA lawsuit against the city to get these issues resolved.

Tom addressed the concerns with explanations. He will follow up on the ones that can be resolved.

Discussion of final ADA Transition Plan, status update and next steps (cost estimating, financing, priorities, implementation, etc.): Steve requested a printed copy of the Transition Plan and mentioned that the city's website is another ADA issue. Tom told him it was on the website. Cameron said it's voluminous so if she printed it, there could be a cost involved to print it.

The cost estimates in the plan were put together by the consultant as "order of magnitude" estimates and subsequently reviewed by a local contractor. Tom shared the estimates to the screen for others in the meeting to see. Cameron asked Tom to send them so they can be attached to the minutes.

Diane mentioned that My Ride can't get to Hubbard Park by Hubbard Park Drive. They can only get to the old shelter, not the tower. Cameron will mention it to the Parks Department. There was discussion about vehicle access to the tower through the gated entrance on Hubbard Park Drive. This access was closed to the public many years ago but arrangements could be made through the Parks Director for special needs. It was noted at the previous meeting that the Parks staff is managing a grant for the construction of an accessible path in the park connecting with the tower area.

Tom responded to Steve and said he didn't believe access to public restrooms within the public right-of-way in general is an ADA rule or requirement. However, accessible restrooms are required for public events under Title II of the ADA (see also Transition Plan). Tom also mentioned that if restrooms are provided for the public, one or more will need to be accessible with an accessible connecting access.

Kevin will get the names of elevator vendors to Cameron to obtain firmer numbers (cost estimates) to replace the elevator in City Hall. He also pointed out that the grant agreement will require an environmental assessment and in this case, the elevator will be an issue. The library spent about \$7,000 for their environmental assessment.

ADA Coordinator position – consideration of filling anticipated vacancy:

Tom would like to phase out of the coordinator position. Hopefully, there will be someone in mind at the next meeting.

Tom mentioned that the Federal public accessibility guidelines entitled Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) are still in draft form. However, Title II entities are strongly encouraged to full adhere to the guidelines because final adoption is imminent.

Steve mentioned that the city might consider someone who is not a city employee for the position.

Updates from committee members: Accessibility at the Transit Center was addressed at a City Council meeting and it was assigned to someone but Cameron will have to check on who it was.

Arne said a grant was received to update the bathrooms at the pool house.

Review and approve meeting minutes from June 1, 2021 and September 7, 2021: Jack made a motion to approve both sets of minutes and Dianne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Confirm next meeting date: December 7, 2021 at 10 AM

Other business: There was no other business.

Adjourn: Cameron made a motion to adjourn, Kevin seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Tami Furry
Recording Secretary