

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY

Minutes

Monday, September 19, 2022 at 3:00 PM

VIA ZOOM

Attendance

Nate Besio, Chair	Laura Siegel	Scot Barker
Jon Adams-Kollitz	Katherine Schad	Amber Fulcher
Ethan Fellows	Sophie Sauv�e	Virginia Clark, ASL Interpreter

- I. Come to Order and Introductions began at 3:04 PM
- II. News and Updates
 - a. Nate is currently reaching out to the NPA point person regarding presentations to promote this committee and increase engagement.
- III. Potential Updates to BACA Webpage
 - a. Clarification on the role of the ADA coordinator on the committee website.
 - b. Katherine: One of the primary functions of this group should be to help determine what ADA guidance is and where it should go.
 - i. Nate: Perhaps, instead of under HR, where the ADA page currently is, there should be an accessibility symbol at the top of each city page that will lead to the ADA page. Some info on this page could contain ADA tips, guidance, and assistance for life around the city.
 - ii. Amber: Another important aspect that should be on the website is the procedure and information regarding ADA grievances
 1. Katherine: This information has been prepared and the website will be updated soon.
 - iii. Amber: Another thing is to make sure the website is accessible
 1. Scot: Certainly something considered and implementation is being attempted. Not an overnight fix but this city is working to tackle this.
- IV. BACA Roles and Responsibilities
 - a. To clarify, this committee functions at a purely advisory capacity. As an advisory group, the committee gives its expertise to various departments as well as the office of the mayor. This includes training materials as well. Both internal and external developments are being considered for the city.
 - b. Laura: Recently sent out communications regarding accessibility to all of the town clerks across Vermont, although only around 30 responded, many of them gave feedback that the training videos that they received were very helpful.

- c. Nate: regarding new membership to the committee, perhaps someone from the Regional Planning Committee and someone from the Department of Public Works.
 - i. Jon: Having someone from DPW makes a lot of sense, also Permitting and Inspections, we all need to be able to help review ADA compliance to projects occurring across the city.
 - 1. One potential starting point would be to get in at the technical review, an early stage of project planning across the city.
 - 2. Help keep in mind for people that this is the law.
 - ii. Sophie: Agree that there should be a representative from public works, seems almost mandatory in order to establish a main point of communication for current public projects
 - 1. Katherine: Volunteered to find a member from DPW and Permit and Inspections for October meeting.
 - iii. Nate: Agree with all of this, important thing is to get this committee more involved, to be more recognizable, and to have more content for website.

V. Playgrounds Update and Discussion

a. Calahan Park

- i. Jon: The park plan has been reviewed thoroughly both internally and with external consultation and several shortcomings have been identified. Sophie will be drafting the ADA guidelines for the department
 - 1. Sophie: The departments identified several shortcomings that did not fulfill ADA compliance with the park plans:
 - a. Every playground designed after March 2012 needs to have an accessible pathway from the parking lot
 - b. Wood mulch can be used but if there isn't someone maintaining it to make it compact then it is not accessible. As there is currently no one employed to maintain the mulch on a daily basis, the playground does not comply
 - c. Additionally, there is now a sinkhole in the middle of the playground that needs to be repaired

b. Oakledge Park

- i. Sophie shared the park and site plans with the committee.
 - 1. Showed plans for the addition of an accessible fitness station along the greenway
 - 2. Laura: Are there accessibility resources to help those who are deaf, blind, hard of hearing, etc. to access and get to the park?
 - a. Sophie: We don't have that but will work on providing it along with feedback from previous BACA meetings.
 - 3. Sophie: Also purchasing accessibility beach mats that connect along the beach and to stairs and ramps so that wheelchairs and strollers can have accessibility on sand.
 - a. Nate: Would also recommend accessibility beach chairs, wheelchair storage, and a transfer area between mobility

areas, etc. Will follow-up with Jon and Sophie later with more resources.

4. Jon: Anyone have feedback on the mobimats being used at other locations?
 - a. Nate: have driven down them before, they are good but they have some issues regarding bunching up when it comes to turning, etc.
5. Laura shared accessibility map resources from AHS. Other resources will be sent to the group.

VI. Adjourn at 4:00 PM

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