



Meeting Minutes

ADA Community Forum 2021 – 3rd Quarter

Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Google Meet

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 Meet

Attendance: 8

Introduction: Rob Hernandez, ADA Manager opened with introductions. Meeting began at 1:00 p.m.

Project updates.

Mike Killebrew, ADA Coordinator, provided updates on projects including: Sertich Ice Center, Memorial Park Beach House, Helen Hunt Falls Picnic

Mike: City is continuing to make great progress and it's really an exciting time.

Sertich Ice Arena: Mike: We are getting a design proposal on the home and visiting side ramp to seating areas. Overall Sertich is in really good shape. We have seen a lot of positive changes in the past 7 years.

Memorial Park Beach House: Mike: We are getting beach wheelchairs in addition to the Mobi Mat. The Mobi Mat meets compliance but still limits wheelchair users to that area. The wheelchairs can go on sand so it opens up that entire area.

Rob: What's neat about the chair is that it allows access one step further than the Mobi Mat.

Jason Crowe, ADA Coordinator: The Mobi Mat is all we need for compliance, but we looked at the practicality of it and realized that if you go to the beach with your family



you really don't want to be limited to that five-foot area at the bottom of the mat. With the wheelchair you can go down the beach and join your family.

Helen Hunt Falls:

Mike: We have gotten a lot of return on investment. It really made this inaccessible area accessible. We are adding some accessible picnic areas and some erosion control, but the project there is pretty much complete.

Rockledge Ranch:

Mike: We have a lot of sidewalk there that is out of compliance and other areas that are rock, gravel paths. We are adding accessibility to where they are doing demonstrations – barnyards, blacksmithing areas.

Rob: We are also working on a kiosk area where someone can see some of the demonstrations virtually.

Kevin McDaniel, ADA Coordinator: The kiosk project is really exciting. The area has a lot of natural barriers, so we have a lot of challenges in terms of accessibility. Some of the historic buildings we cannot put elevators in and some of the concrete is difficult because of the grades and slopes. Kiosks will allow people to experience a lot of these areas that pose these accessibility challenges. We understand that these kiosks can be used in other areas, so we are working to create accessibility standards for these kiosks, and looked at all the applicable considerations to make sure we get this right. Sometimes you have to be creative when it comes to accessibility.

Pikes Peak Summit House:

Mike: The interior of Pikes Peak is about 90% done. The museum space inside is still a work in progress, as is the majority of the exterior including parking. It is already so much better than the previous visitor center. Gift shop and Café are accessible, and it's just really exciting.

Upcoming projects:

Garden of the Gods:

Mike: We do have accessible parking at Garden of the Gods, but we are working on another lot and looping that with an accessible route into the main entrance to the park.

City Administration Building:

Mike: We have a ramp issue up to the front doors that would be difficult to fix because we would have to take out and redesign the pedestrian bridge in order to get the right slope. But sometimes you have to be creative and look at different ways to solve an accessibility problem, and we believe we can do this by installing motion-sensor automatic doors.



Jason: The issue is that at the top of the ramp you need a level area outside the door. That's so someone in a wheelchair can take their hands off their wheels and pull open the door or push a button. However, with the slope it could be dangerous to you're your hands off. With motion-sensor, automatic doors, there would not be a need to you're your hands off your wheels.

Mike: Signage, doorbell issues have all been addressed and resolved.

City Hall:

Mike: We have done a lot of work there over the past few years. What is left is some restroom work, and some concrete work outside.

We have a project lead and I am going to re-walk this with him and really think this through to make sure we are on the same page and get it right.

Ramps into courthouse: Mike: They have some cross-slope issues and handrailing is starting to rust through. It makes sense for us to remove and replace all these ramps.

Access in is always priority one with the ADA, and access to courts is the highest of the high priority.

Rob: At city hall we are doing some technology improvements by adding looping systems. We have also replaced the flat screen monitors for those who have visual disabilities.

Kevin: We have several projects ongoing with city hall and council. One is that we are getting real-time captioning for all city broadcasts. We are looking at providing technology to all of our conference locations and making them universally accessible so we don't have to re-invent the wheel each time.

Rob: Microsoft Teams will now have real-time captioning in the near future.

CSPD:

Mike: We are also upgrading the counters to be accessible at each of the facilities, and those will be equipped with counter loop technology.

Digital Accessibility Update

Update on Web Accessibility Plan:

Kevin: We released the web accessibility transition plan in July, and it is available for you to look at. We were required to do this by June 2022. We are ahead of schedule on this and quite a bit ahead of the state on this. We have remediated or removed nearly 3,000 documents. We have released over 30 policies and procedures on this. All city entities are now grading any new technology for accessibility.

The accessibility maturity model has allowed us to continue to stay on a path where we continue to improve on our accessibility.



The city has over 2000 web pages just on our primary site, and we continue to create more web pages as we move along. So, this is a moving target which is why the accessibility maturity model is so important.

The transition plan is a shot in time and the first step, but I think that every partner is taking this seriously, and we will continue to make progress on it.

In addition, we established the accessibility prioritization committee which meets every quarter. We are looking to expand it and look at the progress the city is making with that transition plan.

Strategic Plan Update:

Kevin: We are looking at every department in the city and assessing it for ADA compliance. In addition, departments are looking at all their web applications, all public facing documents and policies. Mountain Metro Transit was the first one we looked at because transportation is so important to people with disabilities. They were great to work with. We challenged them and they went above and beyond.

Rob: The city really cares about accessibility and inclusion and it really makes our jobs easier. I think we are really ahead of many cities nation-wide and I receive calls from all over the country asking how we are doing things.

Questions.

Vickie Pacheco – I cannot imagine any city doing more than what you do here, and I cannot commend you more highly. You make things look easy.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:53pm.

Chat Comments:

Danielle Delgado

1:09 PM

The beach wheelchairs are so cool! I love it!

Michael Killebrew

1:37 PM

Thanks Danielle! We are excited to add this to the beach house experience. A few years ago, the beach house was possibly our worst ADA facility, now it is arguably 1st!



Michael Killebrew

1:53 PM

We actually get calls from around the country. IL, TX, CA, etc - Thanks Vickie

Danielle Delgado

1:53 PM

Great job ADA team! You guys are awesome!