



Meeting Minutes

ADA Community Forum 2021 – 4th Quarter

Date: Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Google Meet (14 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 Meet

Introduction: Rob Hernandez, ADA Manager opened with introductions. Meeting began at 1:09 p.m.

Project updates.

ADA Coordinators Mike Killebrew and Jason Crowe, and Project Manager Timothy Hartong, provided updates on projects that are currently underway or getting ready to launch. Among the projects: Sertich Ice Center, Memorial Park Beach House, Helen Hunt Falls/North Cheyenne Canyon picnic area, Rockledge Ranch, Pikes Peak Summit, Garden of the Gods, CAB Entrance, City Hall, Municipal Court, and CSFD/CSPD Properties.

Jason Crowe, ADA Coordinator:

Sertich Ice Arena: The plan is to add ramps and accessible seating to both the home and visitors' sides of the ice as well as making two of the four restrooms fully accessible. The maintenance personnel at the ice arena have been creative to make some things as accessible as possible, but, although they were improvements, they weren't compliant. The Office of Accessibility has contracted for architectural design to address these areas and the first proposal is expected any day now.

Memorial Park Beach House: The office worked with parks and other departments throughout the renovation of the beach house and parking lot over the past year. One issue that remained to be addressed was access to the beach itself. The Office ordered Mobi Matting which serves as a portable walking surface down to the water's edge.



However, that would still not allow a wheelchair user access throughout the beach – just to the bottom of the mat. The Office of Accessibility ordered two beach wheelchairs to increase the accessibility to the entire beach. They came in a couple of weeks ago and will be put into use when the beach opens back up in late spring.

Mike Killebrew, ADA Coordinator:

Helen Hunt Falls – There is now access to view the falls and compliant parking. Even though the project was completed this summer, sometimes, upon a final evaluation, problems are found. The Office of Accessibility is working with the contractor to make some corrections. “That’s a hard conversation to have,” said Killebrew. The contractor is expected to do some areas over again in the parking lot as well as some mitigation for some gravel and loose rock run-off into the pedestrian access routes. We are also doing work in North Cheyenne Canyon to add some accessible picnic tables.

Rock Ledge Ranch – Two years ago, we created accessible parking and an accessible route into the park. Now we are working to correct some existing concrete and add some new accessible routes to many of the demonstration areas. We are also adding some new concrete pads to the seating/picnic areas and adding a seating area and replacing some flagstone with some compliant concrete.

Pikes Peak Summit – The interior visitor center is more or less done, minus some to do in the interactive museum. Outside we are going to have 8 accessible parking spaces, six by the visitor center, and two more up by some of the scenic areas. About half of the exterior is done right now, and they should be starting back up in Spring. We started meeting on these plans 5 years ago.

Garden of the Gods – We have one parking lot that is exclusively for people for disabilities, however it has some issues, especially the condition of the asphalt and the cross slope. All of this is going to be completely redone with an accessible route to the garden area. We are on hold currently because there is a waterline going in and we don’t want it to go in then have to tear up the lot.

CSPD – Exterior concrete work is getting done at several facilities. It will be about \$90,000 to \$100,000 in concrete work. After the concrete is completed, some asphalt and parking work will be done to help get some of these facilities ADA compliant.

CSFD – Several of the different fire stations have issues. Two examples are fire station 18 where two accessible spots are being added that will also correct a slope issue of the accessible route to the station. The other issue is station 20, where there is an accessible route issue from the public right of way. There are some tricky slope issues there, but the team believes they have a solution that will work.



Timothy Hartong, Project Manager:

CAB – We have some vertical discontinuities in the pavement that we are going to correct. Also, we have added an automatic button at the bottom of the ramp entrance, so it is on a flat surface and compliant.

City Hall – Concrete pads that are heaving and sinking, so we are going to level out that area. Also, one of the ramps has excessive rise that we are going to correct.

Municipal Court – Both of the ramps have some technical issues to them. We have contractor who is going to re-do both these ramps to make them accessible, which means new ramps and handrails. This should be completed in late Jan. early Feb. of 2022.

Matthew Fitsimmons, Planner, City of Colorado Springs

Revocable Permits – These regulate what is used in the public right of way that is not city property. Accessibility is one of our prime concerns when it comes to permits, which means things like benches and patios have to be compliant. Pavers have always been a problem. They are on sand, so they settle which creates gaps and lips. Many times, restaurants want to come out onto the concrete for their patios and then ask that the pavers then serve as the six-foot-wide sidewalk, but they usually aren't a good surface for the path of travel. It makes it challenging, but one was approved for a restaurant that agreed to go in and lift and fix all the paver issues.

The ADA is very powerful when it comes to decisions on permits because it is a federal mandate not just a local provision.

Michael Killebrew – Revocable Permits (cont.)

Michael walked through the process approving a revocable permit and provided some examples of some of the more challenging revocable permits requests including sculptures or art on the street, red light camera installations, outdoor dining areas, and electric scooters. The Office of Accessibility looked at 456 Revocable permits from August 31, 2020, to Sept 1, 2021.



Kevin McDaniel, ADA/Web Accessibility Coordinator

Digital Accessibility Update – Kevin gave an overview of the Web Accessibility Transition Plan and its current status. The Web Accessibility Transition Plan monitors how the office is doing with its web accessibility and also mandates continuous improvements, audits, and remediation. The office has adopted the accessibility maturity model which has 10 core concepts we follow to get us moving toward accessibility.

Every department has a department liaison to the Office of Accessibility to ensure they are making electronic content accessible. The Office of Accessibility is training department leads to now make their documents accessible to begin with and started by looking at the existing 10,000 documents online and, to date, we have gotten through about 4,000 of them.

Kevin said the Office of Accessibility still has a lot of work to do but so far, they are on course and have met their goals.

Rob Hernandez:

Rob shared with the audience the award the Office of Accessibility received for its transition plan from the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition.

Kevin McDaniel:

Strategic Plan Update: The office set some very ambitious goals, but they are doing it. By the end of 2022, the office will have evaluated every department from a web accessibility standpoint as well as policies and procedures. The office is on-schedule.

Closing

Rob Hernandez, ADA Manager:

The office is currently trying to finish phase 15 of our transition plan. Our goal is to make the City of Colorado Springs, Olympic City, the best city to live in for all, not just people with disabilities.”



Questions.

Q1: Leonard Timm: Question about the Office of Accessibility budget and what projects are included, or not included in that.

Rob Hernandez: The city gives us a budget. Our team gets together and lays out our project priorities. We then present our priorities to the Capitol Improvement Committee.

Mike Killebrew: Other departments have a budget too, so when they are fixing things within their own departments, we get involved to make sure what they are doing is accessible.

Rob Hernandez: Also, if another department is doing a project and we have some work that needs to be done in that area, we can partner with them to get the work done and stretch our dollar as much as we can.

Q2: De Anna Rumsey: What can we do to help your office from an advocacy standpoint to help those third parties to submit accessible web content?

Kevin McDaniel: As we acquire new vendors, we have included all the requirements as well as an enforcement mechanism to make sure they meet all the requirements. Accessibility really isn't a complex topic; it is just writing good code to specification.

Chat Comments:

Emily Shuman
1:05 PM

<https://rockymountainada.org/>

Unknown
2:09 PM

Great work!

Unknown
2:32 PM

Thank you, COS ADA Coordinators - great progress across the board!

