

Minutes

CITY OF LAKEWOOD ADA TASK FORCE MEETING May 23, 2023 7:00-8:00 PM

Meeting is recorded

<https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/accordions/ada-task-force/>

Members present

Tracy Greenberg, co-chair
Ahmie Yeung, co-chair
Sean Mott
Michell Slife
Chris Cowen
Sarah Kepple, City Council

Others present:

Michelle Nohta, secretary
Andrew Fleck, legal counsel
Steve Metzger, DLZ

1. Discussion about meeting minutes, the April 25, 2023 minutes were approved by vote.
2. Ms. Greenberg called the meeting to order, attendance was observed and recorded by Ms. Nohta
3. Ms. Greenberg acknowledged and welcomed a member of the public, Kristin Salo-Horvath to the meeting and moved to the first order of business, the progress report delivered by Steve Metzger of DLZ.
4. Mr. Metzger is attending the National ADA Symposium in Kansas City and joined the meeting virtually from Kansas City. Mr. Metzger stated that all site evaluations were complete and that his co-worker Laura Holtz was completing the curb ramp and pedestrian signal evaluations this week. Mr. Metzger stated that he has also provided several general ADA trainings to city employees as well as specialized training for park employees. The general training was recorded to be uploaded into the city's NeoGov software used by Human Resources to provide various training modules. Ms. Nohta stated that the city requires all employees to take the general training and pass the quiz. Additional employee training is scheduled for plan examiners, building department staff, and facilities maintenance staff in June.
5. Mr. Metzger noted that part of the ADA coordinator's role going forward is documenting the city's progress towards compliance using the transition plan, and that progress is to be continually recorded. Mr. Metzger explained some unexpected personal travel that might mean the rough draft would be delayed, but he still hoped to be able to provide the rough draft in advance of the scheduled June meeting. When the rough draft is provided a guidance document will also be provided to help city staff and task force members in their review. Once city staff determines the rough draft is ready, the document must be made available for public comment by placing it in public places that are open past business hours, as well as making the document available in an accessible pdf. Possible locations suggested are the Cove Community Center, the libraries, and the city hall.
6. Ms. Nohta will also be required to send letters to advocacy groups notifying them that the rough draft of the self-evaluation and transition plan is ready and asking for the groups to review and comment. All public comments given will be made a part of the document in the appendix, DLZ

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will work with staff on any revisions and attend the city council meeting to present the transition plan for formal adoption by the city. Once the plan is adopted the implementation phase begins, and Mr. Metzger is always available for questions, and if additional services are needed can be available as a paid consultant. Mr. Metzger also noted that there are many grants available for ADA improvements to sidewalks, parks, and facilities. The staff review period varies, typically once Mr. Metzger provides a rough draft it can be returned to him in 2-3 weeks.

7. Ms. Cowen asked how the pools /restrooms at Lakewood Park had scored in the evaluation. Mr. Metzger said they had done okay, with some smaller items to adjust but no major obstacles. One issue he had noted at both pools was that although there were lift chairs available, the chairs were kept covered and the batteries were not in the chairs, which is not acceptable. Mr. Metzger recommended that the staff put the battery in the chair and remove the cover each morning prior to the pool opening, and then remove the battery and cover the chair at the end of the day.
8. Mr. Mott asked if estimates for the recommended improvements will be included as part of the transition plan and Mr. Metzger said yes, estimates will be provided as well as an indication of high, medium, or low priority for each item. Mr. Metzger also noted that Ms. Yeung had recommended Google Transcribe in the chat. Mr. Metzger advised that often people with disabilities are good resources for recommendations on improvements.
9. Ms. Cowen asked how long the implementation phase is, and Mr. Metzger stated that it varies.
10. Ms. Yeung noted the time and asked for any other comments from members.
11. Ms. Greenberg recognized the attendance of a member of the public, Ms. Kristin Salo-Horvath if she would like to make a comment. Ms. Salo-Horvath explained that she had attended a city council meeting about the community circulator bus and wished to advocate for the return of the circulator. Due to her disability, Ms. Salo-Horvath stated that she felt confined to her apartment and felt the circulator would provide needed transportation for herself and other persons with varying disabilities the opportunity to visit places that were otherwise unreachable, and she had been advised that she might be interested in attending the ADA Task Force meeting. Ms. Greenberg noted that this exact issue was something that the Task Force often discussed and was on the list of recommendations the Task Force has created, the provision of transportation and other services such as the city's meal delivery program to non-senior people with disabilities. Ms. Greenberg called upon Ms. Nohta to advocate for non-senior transportation for people with disabilities, and Ms. Yeung stated that Director of Human Services Chad Berry should be approached to expand the senior transportation program. Ms. Nohta stated that the city was conducting a circulator feasibility study to bring back the popular RTA circulator. Ms. Slife noted that she made use of Para Transit, a service provided by RTA that she believed had replaced the circulator and that although the process could be a pain it was a useful service.
12. Ms. Greenberg presented the Recommendations document created by the Task Force. Ms. Slife suggested that First Federal might be approached as a hometown bank and see if they would provide special funding for accessibility improvements. Ms. Greenberg stated that she realized that although it might not be possible for the recommendations to be a part of the transition plan it would be important that they are either made a part of the transition plan or that the recommendations were someone communicated to the city and asked Mr. Metzger if the recommendations could be incorporated into the Transition Plan.
13. Mr. Metzger said that recommending removable ramps might not be appropriate as there are often issues with removable ramps, they have to be requested and they can impede traffic flow on the

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sidewalk, however, he showed an example of ramps that had been added on a city sidewalk and said that it may be possible to incorporate a recommendation for the city when it improves its sidewalks to add accessibility ramps to businesses. The example shown was a photo of a ramp added to the Chamber of Commerce in Huntington County. Due to the time and the fact that member Ms. Cowen had to depart for another meeting, co-chair Ms. Greenberg asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yeung, all members voting yay the motion passed.

14. Adjournment