



**CITY OF HELENA
ADA Compliance Committee
January 17, 2023, 1:30 p.m.
Zoom Online Meeting;**

**City-County Building Room 326
Zoom Online Meeting; <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88566400673>**

Members Present: Jim Wahley, Deborah Lane, Gina Lytle, Caroline Scott

Members Absent:

Call to Order and Roll Call

(0:04:18) The meeting was called to order and roll was called.

Minutes

(0:07:52) Minutes of the May 17, 2022 and July 19, 2022 meetings were approved

Regular Items

A. ADA Concerns/Complaint Status Report

(0:09:20) Ms. Ray noted that there had not been any complaints received since July 2022.

B. Review of Accessibility Survey Findings

(0:09:43) Ms. Ray gave a brief overview of the results of the Accessibility Survey. Ms. Lytle asked about the Snow Busters program, and it was noted that it no longer existed. Ms. Lytle stated that she posed on social media and found that people involved in the program were very interested in continuing it. It was suggested that other organizations within the City may be able to take on the program as the City does not have the staffing to do so.

C. Update on the 2017 ADA Transition Plan

(0:18:15) Ms. Ray have a brief update on the ADA Transition Plan progress and noted that with some work scheduled to be completed in 2023 or 2024, a reevaluation will be done in 2024-2025 to keep track of progress.

D. Update on the recommendation to the City Commission for an amendment to the city's right-of-way code enforcement authority that would allow issuance of tickets by Code Enforcement Officers in lieu of the adopted complaint-driven process.



(0:21:35) Transportation Systems Director David Knoepke stated the City Attorney's office is reviewing this and attempting to determine what mechanism code enforcement would use, civil vs criminal, and gave an overview of what the process is envisioned to be. It was noted that parking enforcement would require a state legislative change, and there was additional discussion about that topic.

E. Update on e-bikes on city trails (Parks Department)

(0:31:41) Brad Langsather, Parks, Recreation, and Open Lands, noted that there had been no change with regard to e-bike usage, but it was noted that accessibility devices that are considered a primary source of mobility can be operated on trails within the park system the device is capable of being operated on under a 2011 ruling. There was some discussion about trail maintenance, and a question about creating some rules that would allow people with other limitations to participate in the trail systems via e-bikes. Mr. Langsather stated that has not been addressed, but there are some complexities with the open land system, as it has federal land impregnated within the outer boundaries, where the city does not have the authority to change their travel restrictions and there are several parcels that have deed restrictions that do not allow motorized travel unless it is covered under the previously mentioned ruling. There was some additional discussion about e-bikes and the aging population of Helena and some public comment relating to the patchwork system of trails that do allow e-bikes throughout the city and the challenges that presents. Chair Whaley moved to recommend to the City Commission that the city adopt rules that would allow e-assist bikes and/or throttle bikes on trails other than those trails where there is a prohibition for motorized bikes and that they work to develop rules that would identify or approve people with disabilities for use of the trail system. Ms. Ray noted that this would need to be noticed on an agenda that a recommendation is bring brought forward, and it was decided to put it on the next agenda.

F. Update on species plantings with Rodney Street project (Parks Department)

(0:46:40) Doug Smith, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Open Lands, introduced Chris Daly, City Arborist, to address the topic Mr. Daly talked about the species of trees being planted to replace the trees removed along Rodney Street. Committee members expressed the concern that boulevard trees have the potential to disturb sidewalks, and that it is hoped this concern will be taken under consideration when selecting new species of trees. Mr. Daly noted that concern is taken into consideration and that the Rodney Street project area has larger boulevards which can accommodate larger trees.

G. Election of officers

(0:49:44) New officers were elected with Jim Whaley being elected Chair and Gina Lytle elected Vice-Chair unanimously.

Public Comment

(0:51:46) There was no additional public comment.

Member Communications / Proposals for next Agenda Meetings of Interest / Announcements

(0:51:46) The next scheduled meeting date was noted as being March 21, 2023.



Adjournment

(0:52:26) Meeting was adjourned.