



**City of Helena
ADA Compliance Committee
January 16, 2024, 1:30 PM
Meeting Minutes**

Recording available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmtFqGCLF2RFMrVMJglvWZPBNQsBD67->

Members Present: Jacob Krissovich, Bobbie Kalfell, Debbie Lane, Gina Lytle (*Vice-Chair*),
Jeannie Ranard

Members Absent: Jim Whaley (*Chair*), Melinda Reed

Staff Present: April Sparks, Ellie Ray, Craig Marr, David Knoepke

Call to Order and Roll Call

(0:09:00) Staff called the meeting to order and a quorum was established.

Minutes

A. May 16, 2023

(0:11:36) The minutes from the May 16, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.

Regular Items

A. ADA Concerns/Complaint Status Report

(0:12:26) Staff noted that no written complaints had been received since the May 2023 meeting. There was significant discussion about how to properly submit a complaint, and the response from and resources city staff provides to those calling with complaints that fall outside our jurisdiction.

B. Parks Department facilities presentation

(0:31:20) Craig Marr, Parks and Recreation, gave a brief presentation on what the Park Maintenance division does, and how it relates to ADA compliance, while highlighting many of the challenges the department faces. There were questions from the Committee regarding decision making processes in procurement of accessible equipment, and if a member of the disabled community is involved in the process/on the City-County Parks Board, and a discussion ensued about the potential for input from the disabled community on future projects.

(0:56:48) Vice-Chair Lytle asked about the status of the Committee's recommendation on E-bikes. Staff clarified which recommendation and noted that it is in the process of review, and they would check on the status. There was additional discussion as to how e-bikes in general were banned from open land trails.

Public Comment

- (1:05:10) George McCauley gave public comment related to the work he has been engaged in with others regarding ADA issues in the city. There were no other public comments.

Member Communications / Proposals for next Agenda

- (1:16:07) Staff announced that Transportation Systems would be presenting at the next meeting. Vice-Chair Lytle expressed frustration over many meetings being canceled and a desire to meet even without complaints to review for the sake of public comment. Staff reviewed the establishing resolution for the Committee and noted that the department responsible for staffing this committee had been severely understaffed the past year, and that there was nothing to bring before the committee so there was no utility in trying to convene a meeting, however items have been lined up for at least the first three scheduled meetings of this year, and meetings should be more regular.
- (1:21:54) Vice-Chair Lytle also expressed her desire to see events not be turned away (from Helena) due to lack of accessibility. Staff asked that Vice-Chair Lytle direct individuals who reach out to her to contact city staff so assistance can be provided. Vice-Chair Lytle made some comments on the accessibility of the Civic Center, universal design, and the narrow scope of the Committee. Mr. McCauley added that he had been told about issues of accessibility during the Fall art walk downtown. Jeannie Ranard stated that St Peter's Health was working on getting all the parking lots resurfaced and had worked with Joel Peden in that project to help with accessibility. Staff noted that issues with accessibility for art walk could be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

- (1:30:31) The meeting was adjourned.