



**CITY OF HELENA
ADA Compliance Committee
July 16, 2024, 1:30 p.m.**

[Recording Available Here](#)

Members Present: Jim Whaley, Deborah Lane, Jacob Krissovich, Gina Lytle, Jeannie Renard, Melinda Reed

Members Absent: Bobbie Kalfell

Staff Present: Ellie Ray, Brad Langsather, David Knopke, Anne Pichette, Elroy Goleman

Call to Order and Roll Call

(0:00:00) The meeting was called to order and roll was called.

Minutes

(0:01:00) Minutes of the March 19, 2024 meeting were approved.

Regular Items

A. ADA Concerns/Complaint Status Report

(0:01:47) Ms. Ray noted that there had not been any complaints received since the last meeting.

B. Open Lands and Trails Division Presentation

(0:02:06) Brad Langsather, Open Lands Manager, gave a brief presentation on accessible trails located within the natural park or open lands portion of the parks system. Mr. Langsather highlighted improvements that had been made over the years, typical things to expect to see on accessible trails, and planned improvements. It was noted that there are additional trails within the city that are not part of the Open Lands division and noted the difference in the trail surfaces used between both. Ms. Lytle made some comments about switchbacks and the navigability of some of the trails using adaptive equipment. Mr. Langsather stated that feedback from the community is welcome on any of the facilities. There was more discussion about specific trails, challenges in making more improvements, opportunity for additional accessible trails, and funding for these improvements.

(0:23:58) Mr. Langsather was asked to give an update on the Open Lands Division in relation to E-bikes. Mr. Langsather noted that E-bikes are considered motorized and there is no motorized recreation within the City's Open Lands system for two large reasons; one,



the US Forest Service property within the Open Lands boundaries and the other that there are multiple properties with deed restrictions that includes restrictions on motorized recreation. The department is still following the 2011 Department of Justice ruling, allowing someone who is disabled the use of an electronic device, whether it is considered motorized or not. Non-disabled individuals are still prohibited from using an E-bike within the Open Lands System. Mr. Langsather was asked about his opinion about an elderly individual without a recognized disability using an E-bike. Mr. Langsather stated that until an answer can be found for some of the other issues, it's possible that there could be a change in policy at the Forest Service in the future, and highlighted how Park City, UT has answered this question.

C. FY25 Transition Plan review update

(0:30:00) Staff went over the 2025 Transition Plan review, detailing how the process works and explaining how to interpret the document. Ms. Lytle expressed her concern for improvements to the accessible parking lot at the City-County building being undertaken and her concern for the safety of individuals using it. There was then a discussion about the desire for an update on housing, specifically public housing. There was additional discussion about the difficulty getting transportation outside of city limits among other transportation difficulties. Ms. Ray made note that the City Commission passed a resolution to join the AARP Age Friendly Network of Communities, and that it will be used as a lens as the city proceeds with future projects, while noting some of the improvements around the city completed with challenge grants through AARP.

Public Comment

(0:46:03) Jacob Krissovich asked for clarity on where the code enforcement conversation rests. Director Knoepke gave a brief overview of where the conversation stood at the time, stating that there likely won't be anything to report until fall, but that the conversation has become larger.

Member Communications / Proposals for next Agenda

(0:49:39) The next scheduled meeting date was noted as being September 17, 2024. Committee members were instructed to send any proposed agenda items to Chair Whaley prior to the next meeting. Ms. Ray suggested that the City Attorney's office present at the next meeting.

Adjournment

(0:52:00) Meeting was adjourned.