



CITIZEN'S ADVISORY BOARD FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

MEETING MINUTES

June 11, 2019

3:00 pm, Mall of Abilene, South Branch Library Conference Room

Members Present:

JoAnne Fluke, Chair
Sheria Davis
Katherine Ballard
Debra Turner
Pamela Barnhill

Members Absent:

Virginia Zak
Donna Reiff

City Staff Present:

Kelley Messer, Assistant City Attorney
Brenda Alexander, Director of Human Resources
Veronica Diaz, HR Generalist

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm by the Chair, JoAnne Fluke.

2. Approval of meeting minutes from May 14, 2019

Minutes from the May 14, 2019 meeting were presented and reviewed. Katherine Ballard made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Pamela Barnhill seconded. Motion carried.

3. Receive and discuss CityLink reports

Wayne Kruger, Paratransit Supervisor, gave an overview of the quarterly CityLink ADA trips report. The Board held a discussion of the statistics presented in the report.

4. Citywide Accessible Parking

Board Chair, Joanne Fluke, reminded the Board that the Advisory Board role is to recommend improvements for City facilities such as City Hall, the Convention Center, Airport, parks, the Libraries and sidewalks. It is not here to recommend improvements to private facilities such as grocery stores, strip malls and businesses.

Last month, there was discussion regarding accessible parking at Walmart and other grocery stores. That is private property and it is outside the scope of the Board. The Board can, however, make recommendations regarding the number of accessible parking spaces at public facilities owned by the City of Abilene, for instance, the Convention Center. Also, the parallel accessible parking in front of City Hall is a safety concern and that can be a recommendation.

The parking in the Downtown Area is a concern and the Board would like to consider those concerns. It was suggested that a discussion be held with Planning Department at an upcoming meeting.

The Board heard and made note of the concerns from the public regarding City-wide accessible parking. Mr. Darrin Gray commented on the limited accessible parking spaces around the One AISD building downtown.

5. Discuss and possibly take action on Life Access Event List

The Board discussed creating a Life Access Event list which would be a checklist for event organizers to provide accessibility information to attendees. The list would include information regarding accessible parking, transportation options, accessible restrooms, exit routes, and accessible routes.

Other examples on a Life Access Event list would be information regarding material in alternate formats such as tactile maps, braille schedules, and concierge services including wheelchair charging stations and loaner wheelchairs and walkers. The list would also include On-site services such as sighted-guides, sign language interpreting for general needs and concerts and personal attendants for mobility, shopping and eating assistance

The Board would assist the City with the creation of a Life Access Event checklist that the City would then provide to event organizers.

6. Discuss and possibly take action on City Hall accessibility recommendations

The Board reviewed and discussed the notes from their tour of the facility to prioritize the needs at City Hall.

The critical City Hall priorities identified were:

1. The north exit door needs railing to keep individuals from falling of the platform
2. There are no fire alarms on the 1st of 2nd floors
3. Bathrooms need push button door openers
4. There are no fire emergency pulls
5. There is no Braille department name signage outside of office entrances

- a. There are only room numbers in Braille
- 6. Current Braille signage should be relocated closer to office door entrances
 - a. Lettering on storefront glass walls should be black and not a pale color for visibility
- 7. Need to designate accessible spaces for wheelchairs in the Council Chambers, so they will not block current aisles
 - a. It is recommended they are not close together
- 8. All public meetings should have either closed captioning or sign interpreters
- 9. Need to paint curbs blue in front of accessible spaces, in order to conform to ADA recommended standards

Other important City Hall priorities identified were:

- 10. Remove the interior door in the 2nd floor bathroom and add sanitary sheets to bathrooms
- 11. The City Manager's office needs a lower counter space to serve individuals in wheelchairs
- 12. Each public office should offer a lower counter height for wheelchair individuals to have accessibility

7. Discuss and possibly take action on Airport accessibility recommendations

The Board reviewed and discussed the notes from their tour of the facility to prioritize the needs at the Abilene Regional Airport.

The critical Airport priorities identified were:

- 1. Rail for the steep incline entering the lower level
- 2. Video phone instead of TTY

Other important Airport priorities identified were:

- 3. Better signage
 - a. There are no Braille signs next to the elevator
 - b. No Braille signage at the gift shop area
 - c. Accessible and emergency exits
- 4. Braille print map
- 5. Post text of general information on the website of the layout of the land
- 6. Restrooms in the lower level has a door that is a challenge to open

The Board heard and made note of the concerns from the public regarding Airport accessibility.

Katherine Ballard made a motion to approve the recommendations for City Hall and Airport accessibility recommendations. Sheria Davis seconded. Motion carried

8. Recommend topics for future meetings

Future topics discussed were:

1. Accessible Parking, discussion with Traffic Engineering
2. Parks, including the water park, discuss next spring before they open
3. Zoo, discuss in the fall
4. Items to add to Life Access Event list

9. Public comment period

The Board heard and made note of the concerns from the public.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Brenda Alexander, Director of Human Resources
and ADA Coordinator, Ex-Officio

Approved by Board on July 9, 2019:



JoAnne Fluke, Chair