

# Human Resources

## Office of Accessibility



### Meeting Minutes ADA Community Forum 2024 – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

**Date:** Thursday, December 12, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30pm

**Location:** Virtual Microsoft Teams (10 people in attendance)

**Subject:** Residents can come learn about a variety completed, ongoing and future improvements throughout the city as well as an update on web accessibility successes and progress.

**Accommodations:** Captioning via Microsoft Teams

**Introduction:** Rob Hernandez, ADA Manager opened with introductions. Meeting began at 1:03 p.m.

**Rob:** Introduced the Office of Accessibility Staff and welcomed participants. He also provided updates on the following:

**Web Accessibility:** Liz Meyers, Senior Web Accessibility Coordinator and Andre Taté Digital Compliance Intern, provided the following updates:

- **Web Almanac News** – The publication named Colorado the most accessible state government.
- **City Web Accessibility Accomplishments:**
  - Acquired an accessibility intern, requesting a second
  - Posted first quarterly update to our website
  - Began writing a new Transition Plan
  - Launched all-staff accessibility training
  - Established a process for purchasing accessible technology
  - Launched an accessibility resource Intranet page for all City staff
  - Regular all-staff communications via newsletters, intranet, & podcast
  - Created a procedure for staff to follow when creating documents, to ensure accessibility
  - Identified when & how to use CommonLook
  - Established a process to conduct internal reviews to validate vendor accessibility

#### Future Plans

- Preparing next Quarterly Report (due 12/31/24)
- Exploring new document remediation software
- Preparing to launch vendor process in January



O: 719.385.5175  
C: 719.510.7325



adacompliance@coloradosprings.gov  
www.coloradosprings.gov



30 S. Nevada Ave, Ste 301,  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

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**Updates to the City Website** – ADA Coordinator Mike Killebrew shared updates to the City website ADA landing page including navigation improvements and additional information on language access.

*Question:* Attendee Kevan Worley asked if he could get a press release on the City's web accessibility progress that he could share with the state. Liz said she will try to put something together for him.

### ADA Team Updates

**TSA virtual meeting:** ADA Coordinator Jason Crowe provided a recap of the Nov. 7 virtual meeting with TSA representative Alan Johnson.

- Key takeaways:
  - The importance of passengers notifying security personnel about medical devices, such as pacemakers and defibrillators, which could impact the screening process.
  - Johnson will provide feedback to leadership regarding the need for improved language access resources.
  - TSA Cares Program - which assists individuals with disabilities during the screening process. You can access it online and make arrangements for specific accommodations ahead of time.

**Make-A-Wish Colorado:** ADA Coordinator and Project Manager Tim Hartong discussed ADA improvements made to Apple Park through the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Accessible playground equipment was installed at the Park to grant a wish for a Make-A-Wish participant.

### Upcoming Projects

- **CSPD Stetson Hills Repaving** – Tim spoke about parking lot improvements at the Stetson Hills Substation including grade corrections, as well as fresh striping and signage.
- **Quail Lake Community Park** – Jason provided a briefing of the upcoming project at the west side of Quail Lake to include parking improvements and accessible routes to the restrooms, playground and basketball court. He also shared that OA is working with parks to possibly expand the project to include improvements on the east side of the lake.
- **Starsmore Restrooms** – Tim shared information on plans to renovate the restrooms at the Starsmore Discovery Center. It is the hope that the project can get underway and completed prior to the spring busy season at the center.
- **Woodmen Valley** – Tim provided an update on plans for a new accessible playground, accessible on-street parking and an accessible route into Woodmen Valley Park. Fundraising efforts for the playground continue through LuBird's Light Foundation, and the Office of Accessibility has committed funding for the on-street parking and accessible route.
- **Garden Ranch Park** – Jason briefed meeting attendees on an upcoming project at Garden Ranch Park to replace a large area of broken, heaving and spalled concrete in and around the pavilion at the entrance to the park.



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- **Grey Hawk Park** – Tim updated progress on Grey Hawk Park located on the far north side of town. OA reviewed the park plans and provided feedback and suggestion to Parks.
- **Deerfield Community Garden** – Mike spoke on plans to add accessible raised planters at the Deerfield Community Center Community Garden. The plan includes four planters as well as new accessible routes in from parking and from the community center itself.
- **Westside Community Center** – Tim spoke on work currently happening at the Westside Community Center including improvements to the main entrance, two interior lifts and a newly reconfigured hallway to correct some grade issues.
- **Garden of the Gods Waterline / Parking Lot #4** – Tim provided an update on work to make a 1/3 mile stretch of trail accessible through the Garden of the Gods. The route will start at a shuttle stop that will also be paved and accessible as part of the project. It will continue adjacent to the Central Garden up to parking lot #4 that will be replaced to ADA compliance. The work coincides with the installation of a new waterline.
- **Wasson Park** – Tim briefed attendees on the project at Wasson Park to improve accessibility to the baseball field, playground and restrooms.

**Rob Hernandez** announced to the group that he will retire in March of 2025.

*Question:* Attendee Vicki Pacheco asked if there was any update about a hearing loop at the Senior Center. Tim said there will be an FM system installed at the center in addition to a front desk counter loop.

### Chat:

Liz - [Accessibility | 2024 | The Web Almanac by HTTP Archive](#)

I'll stay on until 2pm

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Sheridan Powell - A member of the VCOS Staff is very involved with Keep Colorado Springs Beautiful if you need a connection!

Robert Hernandez - 👍

Jason - Cool! Thanks Sheridan!



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Mike - Garden of the Gods - 4 years in the making. We will finally have an accessible pick up, drop off, then 1/3+ mile accessible route to accessible parking. A big success!

Mike - THANKS FOR OUR SUCESS!!!

Bridget Dandaraw – Seritt - We will miss you! Happy retirement!

Indy Frazee - Rob has been a tremendous asset for the City promoting accessibility for our community! We will miss you!

Jackson Simmons - Thanks for all your hard work Rob! You will be missed

Scott Bartlett - Thank you for your work, Rob.

Sheridan Powell - Congratulations, Rob!

Liz - Thank you for your time, I need to hop off now.

Mike - Thanks!

Mike 0Thanks Jason

Meeting adjourned at 2:11pm



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