

**City Of Santa Barbara**  
**Access Advisory Committee Minutes**

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Friday, May 16, 2014  
9:30 a.m.

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room  
630 Garden Street

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Committee Members Present:

Robert Burnham – Chairperson; Brian Barnwell; Adelaida Ortega;  
Martha Degasis; Barbara Silver; Karen Johnson

Committee Members Absent:

Ken McLellan

Staff Present:

Brian D'Amour, Supervising Engineer; Sarita King, Administrative  
Specialist, Kristy Schmidt, ADA Coordinator

Staff Absent:

None

Staff Presenting:

George Estrella, Chief Building Official

Guests:

Pat Kelly, Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer;  
Citizens: Jim Marsten; Bonnie Elliot; Roy Harthorne

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Two minor edits were noted in the minutes of February 21, 2013. The edits were acknowledged, and the minutes were approved.

**4. Public Comment:**

- a) Citizen Jim Marsten noted that some establishments in the City are forbidding citizens with service dogs to enter their premises. He asked if County Public Health can do anything and requested that the Committee look into this and find out if there is a phone number that the County can provide to shop owners to call and receive information on the regulations regarding service animals. Brian D'Amour said that this could be added to

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the next meeting's agenda. Adelaida Ortega suggested that guide dog trainers also be invited to an Access Advisory Committee meeting.

**MOTION** by Brian Barnwell to add the discussion of service dogs on private business premises and to ask the County to provide information, were put before the Committee.

Barbara Silver seconded.

Ayes=6

Noes=0

Abstain= 0

Absent=1

- b) Citizen Roy Hawthorne requested a discussion of the frequency of Access Advisory Committee meetings and proposed that a sub-committee be created that would be exempt from the Brown Act to assist the Architectural Board of Review and the Land Development Team to identify issues that would be of interest to this Committee. It was noted by AAC staff that current staff resources are limited. Brian Barnwell volunteered to represent the Access Advisory Committee at Architectural Board of Review, Historic Landmark Commission, and Land Development Team meetings. Robert Burnham, who is also a member of the Transportation and Circulation Committee, volunteered to attend the Transportation and Circulation Committee meetings and represent the Access Advisory Committee.

## **5. Agenda Items**

### **a) Review of MacKenzie Park ADA Compliance**

Kristy Schmidt presented a PowerPoint presentation, which outlined MacKenzie Park's ADA compliance. Her presentation gave an overview of ADA Title II and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which require that the City's programs, services, and activities be equally accessible to people with disabilities. The requirements related to program access were reviewed. New facilities and modifications to existing facilities must be fully accessible under modern ADA building standards. However, the City is not required to make changes to existing facilities, except as necessary to ensure equal access to City programs. Nor is the City required to make every program, service, or location accessible. For example, if a particular park is not accessible, but access to the same recreation program can be provided at another accessible and central location, that may meet the program access requirement. The Parks and Recreation Department works diligently to ensure that appropriate access to its programs, services, and activities are provided to people with disabilities.

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Pat Kelly discussed the recent MacKenzie Park Parking Lot Storm Water Project. The Engineering Division worked with the Creeks Division, and as part of the review process, the project was presented to the Architectural Board of Review. Permeable pavers were used to resurface the Parking Lot. An additional accessible parking space was added to the site, and the spaces were moved in closer proximity to facilities within the Park. A building permit was inadvertently not received for the project, but staff has applied for the permit and is working with the Building and Safety Division to ensure all of the permit requirements are met.

George Estrella noted that the main entrance to the Park is on State Street, across from Calle Palo Colorado, and is considered the accessible route. It was noted that the entrance to this path is adjacent to public transportation and is the accessible route and path of travel leading from the public right of way into the park. Although the path does not meet modern ADA building standards for new or modified facilities, it is still defined as the existing accessible route to and within the Park.

It was also noted that the unofficial dirt shortcut from Las Positas is not a pedestrian path of travel that meets the definition or intent of the building code. It was not a path of travel before or after the recent parking lot resurfacing project. The City does not provide pedestrian access at this point. Because it does not provide pedestrian access at this location, it is not required to provide accessible pedestrian access at this location. Therefore, the building permit will not require that an accessible entrance be placed there. Further, this path could not be made accessible without reconfiguring the entire parking lot, removing a significant amount of landscaping, and/or property acquisition. It was also noted that removal of the curbs, which existed before, but are more defined in the new parking lot, would violate state and federal law which prohibits a path of travel directly entering into a parking lot in harm's way of vehicles. Finally, since there is no sidewalk on Las Positas leading from State Street up to the dirt shortcut, it would not be safe or appropriate to put an entrance there.

Kristy Schmidt said that future monies may be earmarked for a sidewalk from State Street along Las Positas and a pedestrian entrance, if such a project is prioritized in the City's Capital Program, but that would be a decision ultimately made the City Council within the context of the City's other capital needs. Pat Kelly mentioned that the areas adjacent to the Armory may have sidewalks added in the future, based on the final Master Plan for development of this site. Brian D'Amour added that funds for

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sidewalks and pedestrian crossing enhancements also come from Capital Improvement Projects, such as the project on Las Positas at McCaw Avenue.

It was noted that there are a number of accessibility issues noted in the Transition Plan, which identified high, medium, and low priority issues. The high priority items were those that were necessary to ensure program access, and all of those were completed. The medium and low priority items are those that are not required by the ADA, but would be needed in order to bring the existing facilities up to modern building standards. These priorities are completed when required (such as when there is a facility modification project) or as funding allows. In the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 General Fund budget, \$100,000 will be available for these ADA improvements and could possibly be used for upgrades at Mackenzie Park.

There was a question of where the Committee can look at the Transition Plan as it relates to MacKenzie Park. It was noted that the Transition Plan is located on the City's website.

**b) Access at the corridor of Cliff Drive and Las Positas Road**

Brian D'Amour gave a presentation on access at the corridor of Cliff Drive and Las Positas Road and noted that Council recently gave approval for a roundabout at this intersection. In addition, the City applied for a grant for the Las Positas Multiuse Path, which will run from Las Positas at Cliff Drive to Modoc Road. Five possible design options are being considered, including added pedestrian crossings at Portesuello. The grant funding would be earmarked for planning and design, and funding is still needed for the construction of the project.

**c) Mission Canyon Corridor Community Process - including access at the Santa Barbara Mission and near the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum**

Brian D'Amour gave a brief presentation on this project. The County of Santa Barbara received a planning grant from Caltrans to explore a pedestrian pathway from the Mission to Foothill Road. Conceptual drawings were presented at a recent community meeting, and showed renderings of the walkway, which would start at the Los Olivos/Laguna intersection and continue adjacent to the Mission, over Mission Creek, provide access to the Natural History Museum, then proceed northward up to Foothill Road. This

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was a presentation of a project that seems to be widely supported and will be a strong candidate for future grant funds.

Chairman Barnwell adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.

**The next meeting of the Access Advisory Committee will be on Friday, August 22, 2014.**