



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING

Friday, February 2, 2018
9:30am – 11:30am
David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden St.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

Committee Members

James Marston, Chair	Present
Robert Burnham	Present
Karen Johnson	Absent
Nick Koonce	Present
Barbara Silver	Absent
Jacob Lesner-Buxton	Present
Ken McLellan (Acting)	Present
Martha Degasis (Acting)	Present

City Staff

Mike Wiltshire, Facilities & Energy Manager, ADA Coordinator	Present
Tina Diaz, Accounting Assistant	Present

Welcomed Jacob Lesner-Buxton as a new Access Advisory Committee member

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- o Roy Harthorn –
 - o Passed out a New Press article from 1988, chronicling the inception of the City embracing disabled access
 - o Noted key members, who pushed back against a Public Works pavers project, and many other projects, that were not accessible that was eventually removed and replaced.
 - o Gave a good historical background of the Access Advisory Committee supporting HLC (Historic Landmarks Commission) and ABR (Architectural Board of Review) and reviewing a large number of past projects.
 - o Has a number of historical files, meeting minutes, etc. that he plans to scan and make available. (<http://www.codeconsult.com/>)
 - o Most of this documentation was from DACA (Disabled Advisory Committee and Access) meetings.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES & DISCUSSION OF PENDING ITEMS

a) Approval of Minutes

- o November 10, 2017 regular meeting minutes – APPROVED.
 - o Comments/Questions on meeting minutes:
 - Jim Marston – Wanted funeral home name to be corrected to McDermott-Crockett & Associates Mortuary. Staff to update.
 - Jim Marston – Wanted to confirm Staff will follow up with pending items from previous minutes. Staff confirmed they will respond.
 - Bob Burnham – Mentioned need to elect a new Chair & Vice Chair
 - o Motion to approve minutes by Jim Marston, Seconded by Ken McClellan
 - o Ayes: 6, Opposed: 0

- Jim Marston made a comment, thanking staff about the quality of the recent meeting minutes.
- While discussing Item 8, Committee made a Motion to agendaize further discussion on Truncated Domes and Tactile Warnings. Staff to consult with Building & Safety and Public Works and respond along with potentially agendaizing this item for the next Committee Meeting.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS & STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Committee Member Reports:
 - Nick Koonce –
 - Reporting back on Ad-Hoc Committee looking at content and messaging made available through website. Volunteer to update the disabled parking guide. Would like to include details on Harbor and self-parking. Staff to provide electronic/hard copy of disabled parking guide for Ad-Hoc Committee to update. Ad-Hoc Committee would also like to review existing list of disabled parking and make recommendations on how to make existing spaces more useable and practical. Referenced an existing disabled parking spot near Anapamu and Chapala that is impacted by a larger planter. Potentially easy fixes to issues such as this around the City.
 - Suggested making a guide to draw attention to code compliance in Private Buildings with respect to aisle widths, fire safety, and overall ADA compliance.
 - Bob Burnham –
 - Reminder about February 5, 2018, the first meeting with Street and Sidewalk Maintenance Ad-Hoc Committee with Mr. Jim Dewey. Start the process of prioritizing sidewalk and path of travel improvement for safer paths of travel throughout the City. Plan to discuss specific locations to prioritize and work with City to improve. Martha Degasis reminded that she is compiling an excel spreadsheet to act as the clearing house for improvement prioritizations and for any committee members to email her issues.
 - Jim Marston –
 - Note that HLC and ABR needs to better integrate accessibility into their process of design review and ensure accessibility is considered.
 - Commended appeals board regarding decision on elevator. The board offered a conditional approval as opposed to a clear cut approval or denial. This is a good example of making progress.
 - Reported on McDermott-Crockett & Associates Mortuary accessibility issue. Jim met with mortuary staff and found solutions for access and an additional ramp to provide access to the lower level.
- Staff Announcements:
 - Mike Wiltshire –
 - Again welcomed Jacob Lesner-Buxton as the newest Committee member
 - Staff provided electronic copies of Access Advisory Committee documentation by Compact Disc. Nick Koonce requested these documents be made available online and offered his help. Staff will work to make this happen.
 - Reminder that Committee needs to select a new Chair/Vice Chair
 - Selection of Chair & Vice Chair for 2018
 - Martha Degasis made a Motion: Jim Marston for Chair and Nick Koonce for Vice Chair. Seconded by Bob Burnham. Ayes: 6, Opposed: 0.
 - 2018 Chair: Jim Marston
 - 2018 Vice Chair: Nick Koonce

6. DISCUSSION ON STANDARDS FOR TACTILE WARNINGS AND TRUNCATED DOMES

- Presentation by Chair Jim Marston:
 - State and local building codes, such as structural, electrical and fire are sometimes based on researched issues of safety. Usually, hazardous non-compliant projects are immediately halted and corrected. Jim Marston presented his concerns with inconsistent enforcement that ignores hazardous safety issues for many pedestrians.

- Sidewalk curbs have long been used to identify when a safe pedestrian walkway leads to a vehicle area. Where pedestrians and vehicle areas are not separated by a continuous barrier or curb a dangerous situation occurs. Much rigorous research was conducted in attempts to mitigate this problem and guidelines were created to make those non-curb transitions more noticeable by pedestrians.
- This research led to the California Building Code 11B-705.1.1 which specifies that detectable warnings are required in those situations. J. Marston showed various photos depicting how City Departments, City design committees and the design community often ignore this vital safety requirement. He asked why public safety codes for pedestrians are not enforced and what can be done to enforce compliance, as required by the CBC?
- The Division of the State Architect (DSA) Advisory 1.9.1.1 appears to state that sidewalks in the Public Right of Way are governed by the CBC. The City of Santa Barbara does not enforce this notice.
- The third concern raised was that while individuals are required to get building permits and have accessibility and safety checked by the Building Dept, other City departments ignore this requirement and build without permits from the Building Dept, the only group with Certified Access Specialists (CAsp) to ensure public safety and accessibility. Many of their projects do not meet accessibility requirements. These City departments have built projects with glaring omissions of required access. Marston gave examples including the Garden St lot which has no warnings between pedestrian and vehicle areas, non-compliant parking meters at some City parking lots, no accessible Path of Travel for the West entrance to McKenzie Park, the recent Shoreline Park playground, and the newly built curb ramps at State and Mason. Marston stated that the City and all its departments should be held to a higher, not a lower standard.
 - The City should make all available attempts to make sure that City staff, the City design committees, and architects and builders be made fully aware of the code and that full compliance will be expected.
 - The City should decide if they want various departments to design and build projects with no B&S permit or accessibility plan and inspection check, as required, as this has and will cause many dangerous situations and impact the City's Risk Management concerns. An agreement is needed from all departments on what can and can't be built without a full plan review by qualified access specialists, as the City would be remiss to accept projects without qualified review.
 - Marston suggested that the City, working with the City's Certified Access Specialist come to an agreement on DSA 1.9.1.1, and report their findings. It should be realized that our City has the right to adopt a stricter and consistent standard as do other cities, including San Francisco's outstanding new regulations.
 - The City should enforce their duty under CBC that any non-compliant construction be ordered to be fixed when discovered or reported
- Due to time constraints it was voted to continue the discussion at the next meeting on May 11.
- Public Comment
 - Mr. Will Rehling
 - Confirmed he notices the increased level of identification, marking, and uniformity of accessibility features in San Francisco as opposed to Santa Barbara.
 - Brought attention to the overlap between public and private projects making accessibility upgrades to the Public Right of Way.
 - Spoke on Measure C tax increase and the likelihood of curb ramp installation throughout Santa Barbara in the coming years.
 - Discussed that design review boards may not be as critical of accessibility requirements and that a memo from the Access Advisory Committee to design review boards may help clarify and reduce the number of non-compliant designs that end up at Building & Safety plan check.

- Nick Koonce agreed that the memo to design review boards is a good idea but he would like to see more done. Asked Staff to report back on what the committee is able to do in response and what are the legal limitations. Nick Koonce suggested forming an Ad-Hoc Committee to investigate the issue of truncated domes. Staff responded by recommending to contact Building Official for some answers on process and reasoning behind approval of truncated domes, as a first step. Staff will contact Building Official for a detailed response on approval process of truncated domes. Jim Marston recommended creating a handout reminding permit applicants of key requirements for truncated domes and accessible right of way features.
- Jacob Lesner-Buxton asked to have Council Presentation close captioned as an accessibility effort.

7. BREAK

8. REVIEW ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL PRESENTATION

- Presentation by Staff Liaison, Mike Wiltshire
 - Staff sent a draft presentation out on January 22, 2018 for committee review.
 - Tentative presentation to Council date is March 27, 2018
 - Staff included comments from Jim Marston into draft presentation
 - Staff ran through presentation which outlined:
 - History of Access Advisory Committee
 - Role of Access Advisory Committee
 - Recent Activities and Achievements
 - Future Goals and Objectives
 - Jim Marston recommended including a note to differentiate and include California Building Code (CBC) in addition to reference to ADA as it is two separate codes.
 - Nick Koonce asked if the Staff could have some time to review and comment on the draft presentation. Staff agreed to take comments and edits up until February 20, 2018.
 - Jim Marston commented on status of truncated domes at Cabrillo Pavilion project regarding color.
- Public Comment
 - Mr. Will Rehling
 - Commented on terminology of the draft presentation in reference to “disabled”.
 - Committee agreed that “first person” terminology is preferred.
 - Councilmember Jason Dominguez
 - Noted the City and Council is spending a lot of time and effort supporting Montecito and Coast Village Road in supporting disaster efforts.
 - Defined Council Liaison role as primary point person to help provide resources and support. Role is not to attend meetings or directly participate but be available to respond to questions and provide resources. A reminder that Committees can do a lot of work by phone and email.
 - Bob Burnham asked about updating resolution. Councilmember Dominguez recommended working with Staff to get item agendaized at Council.
 - Nick Koonce asked about updating meeting frequency. Staff response was to evaluate current workload. Staff and Committee is the best gauge of meeting frequency, not Council.
 - Councilmember Dominguez provided advice on using non-meeting methods to improve meeting quality. Using email, phone, and internet to handle the bulk of questions and topics and use meeting time to refine the details.
 - Jim Marston questioned Councilmember Dominguez on the Brown Act and means and methods to work within these confines. Councilmember Dominguez again recommended using email with staff prior to meetings to help clarify or handle any issues with topics of interest. Reminder that Committee chair and members should be corresponding with Staff and not the rest of the Committee directly.

- Jacob Lesner-Buxton voiced his concerns with the overall structure of the meetings. Expressed that meetings are confusing and seem to jump around a bit.

9. METHODS OF CONTACTING VARIOUS CITY DEPARTMENTS

- Presentation by Staff Liaison, Mike Wiltshire
 - Contacting Public Works
 - Staff provided direction on city of Santa Barbara website (www.santabarbaraca.gov)
 - Staff provided Public Works “Who to Call Brochure” which is also available through the website.
 - Staff provided Building & Safety contact information for process and reporting Building Code Violations.
 - Jim Marston comment that he was provided a phone number for street and sidewalk issues. Left a message but did not receive a call back or follow up on issue.
 - Jim Marston commended City services and disabled services throughout the recent fire and flood disasters. KEYT will be doing a story with the Independent Living Resources Center, Inc. (ILRC) and some of its members highlighting the successes of coming together to support the disabled community.
 - Nick Koonce gave two examples of contacting Public Works and how in both cases the City responded fairly quickly and effectively.
- Public Comment
 - Mr. Will Rehling
 - Asked Staff is there a process for formally filing a grievance with regards to ADA compliance?
 - Staff has since forwarded Mr. Rehling a copy of the City’s Accessibility Grievance process and form. (Sent on February 5th, 2018)

10. BRIEF UPDATE ON STATUS OF VALET PARKING ORDINANCE

- Presentation by Downtown Parking Superintendent, Victor Garza
 - Confirmed that City is still working on final draft of Valet Parking Ordinance
 - Confirmed that concerns raised in previous Access Advisory Committee meetings will be integrated into ordinance language
 - Confirmed that Valet Ordinance documentation will be brought back to both Downtown Parking Committee as well as Access Advisory Committee for approval before going to Council. Access Advisory Committee members are welcome to attend Downtown Parking Committee.
 - Noted that work is continuing on valet parking zone in front of the Californian Hotel. This is being changed from original construction to ensure it is compliant. Project is still with Public Works Engineering staff.
 - Looking for Committee input on acceptable ways to create on street options for valet operations. One proposition is to locate valet parking operations close to existing ADA ramps.
 - Noted work is continuing on depot lot near Reagan Ranch Center to create ADA compliant loading zone for valet operations.

11. ADJOURNMENT

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Friday, May 11, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: If you need auxiliary aids or services or staff assistance to attend or participate in this meeting, please contact Access Advisory Committee staff at 564-5583. If possible, notification of at least 72 hours prior to the meeting will usually enable the City to make reasonable arrangements. Specialized services, such as sign language interpretation or documents in Braille, may require additional lead time to arrange.

REPORTS: Minutes and agendas are posted online on the [Access Advisory Committee Website](#)