



City of Portland
Portland Disability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2018

Bill Campbell, Jr., Chair of the Committee convened the meeting of the Portland Disability Advisory Committee (PDAC).

- **Sign in**

- In attendance: Lisette Belanger, Michelle Ames, Haley Pass, Bill Campbell, Jr., Jessica Russell, Derek O'Brien, Ken Shapiro, James Devine, Karen Perry, Bud Buzzell, Steve Leighton, Kayla Moore, Carol Schiller, Bryan Weinstein
- Absent Committee members: John LeMieux, Hanna Aistrop

- **Guest speaker, Bryan Weinstein, P.E., AI/PE, Tindale Oliver Project Manager/ADA Compliance Engineer**

- Bryan is a civil engineer based out of Tampa; he performs ADA transition studies across the east coast, to review what is not accessible and what can be done to make them accessible.
- He's performing an assessment of City facilities, parks, trails, and sidewalks adjoining City facilities.
- Phase One had about 30 facilities, which his colleagues Don and Dustin assessed.
- Phase Two includes dozens more facilities and parks, some of which are physically large, such as all of the parks that were not in Phase One.
- After reviewing the properties, he composes reports for all facilities, to make it easier for the individual departments to review them and make certain adjustments/improvements.

- During this week's trip, he is assessing the Jetport, Jetport fire station, Kiwanis Bath House, Fitzpatrick Stadium, a handful of parks, and those portions of the East End Community School, Reiche School, and Riverton School utilized by the City for City activities/services (like before- and after-care).
- As for his methodology, he interviews staff and patrons; tours the facility; and uses his tablet with checklists.
- **Questions and concerns**
 - Derek brought up that the engineers doing the assessment are able bodied and have different visions. Bryan is a civil engineer and certified by ICC and is aware of what the ADA requires. He takes measures, uses levels, etc. to determine if something meets ADA guidelines. At this point, we're examining the ADA requirements. He sometimes makes recommendations for organizations that would allow the organization to voluntarily decide to go above and beyond the ADA's minimum requirements.
 - Grandfathering into the ADA: what does this mean? If a city building is implementing a recommendation to a historic structure that he recommends, have to offer services elsewhere. ADA came out in 1990 and was updated in 2010: in most instances, the law gave a 2-year windows of when new construction needs to be ADA accessible. If a facility is built before 1992, according to the ADA, it doesn't have to be ADA compliant immediately. But when an improvement is made to an existing facility, it must then be ADA compliant. The grandfathering clause does not provide blanket immunity to ADA compliance.
 - Derek: The sidewalks being fixed by public works don't last more than a couple of years. If you go outside the immediate downtown area and it gets worse. Jessica thinks it actually gets better outside of the immediate area because there's more concrete.
 - Bryan believes the City is ahead of the curve by doing this transition plan, taking a step in the right direction. He explained that there may be quick fixes, easy for the City to implement, while there are many longer-term, more expensive remediations.

- ADA gave many employers of 50 or more employees the requirement to have an ADA transition plan developed and a timeframe to fix deficiencies. Some employers had transition plans that they didn't keep current, and some didn't create any.
- Bill asked if there are other US cities that Bryan believes are similar to Portland, Maine, particularly with regard to the bricks in the streets and sidewalks. Bryan responded that the city is unique. A lot of downtowns have cobblestone streets with brick sidewalks. Seattle or San Francisco, he believes, has a map on its website that shows accessibility routes.
- Jessica asks what does he do when accessing athletic field? Bryan explained: the ADA says you must have access to the field but the ADA doesn't extend beyond the field. He looks at the accessibility of the parking to determine how you get to the facility. Then look at the route from the parking - is there an accessible aisle that's level, for example? (Parks are different in that you can be going to multiple locations within the park.) He tries to examine the slopes, the paths, access to the fields and the benches. The parking and the accessible routes need to be firm, stable, slip resistant but doesn't mandate paved or asphalt cement; could be many other materials. It's not clearly defined.
- Jessica asked about entry to the Kiwanis pool. Bryan was advised there is a wooden ramp built and used every year. He noted there was a step but the ramp was not there. He will include information about a ramp in his report.
- Ken asked about non-mobility issues. Bryan sees lack of signage or signage that's not compliant (e.g. wrong height, not tactile, missing, or on the door). He documents that for his reports.
- Bryan is not aware of sound/light sensitivity requirements provided by the ADA. But visual impairments are covered by the ADA.
- Bryan: education of staff is very helpful. The transition plan is one step, but educating the staff is another. He often brings a wheelchair and a cane to his trainings, which can be very eye opening to the staff participants.

- Jim asked about interaction with historical preservation societies when implementing changes. Bryan responded that with historic structures, there's more leniency under the ADA.
 - Longfellow and High Street intersection: One Longfellow, redesign of the intersection. Carol referenced 2016 report of what needed to be done at the park. The walkways were deteriorated. She'll speak with Bryan after the meeting.
- Increasing public awareness of PDAC
 - Mandy shared that the new-and-improved PDAC webpage is on the City's website.
 - Mandy asked for feedback on the press release by the end of Friday
 - Ideas for public service announcement (PSA) with Portland Media Center
 - Derek suggested that each participant say one word that impacts their situation (e.g. "barriers").
 - Haley suggested that the PSA include a word cloud capturing these terms.
- Closed captioning educational campaign update: Mandy shared that a printing company is in the midst of getting the letters printed, addressed, and mailed.
- New business:
 - Listening session: many members expressed interest in PDAC hosting two listening sessions that would be open to the public to share their questions and concerns about disability-related issues in the City. We'd like host one during a week-day night (from about 5-7 pm) and another during the day on a weekend. We'd have a few Members attend.
- Next meeting 5/2/2018 from 11 am to 12 pm in Room 24 in the basement of City Hall
- Adjournment 12:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Mandy Levine
City of Portland Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Specialist