
CONFERENCE ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 450 S. MAIN ST., RICHLAND CENTER, WI 53581

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Downs called the meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM. Members present: Steve Downs and Casey Garner. Members Absent: Maria Orellana. A quorum was present. Oliphant affirmed proper notice.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

Role, Purpose, & Scope of the ADA Committee: Garner provided a review of various ways municipalities utilize ADA committees. He advised most municipalities rely on an ADA coordinator rather than a committee as an ADA coordinator is required for municipalities with 50 or more employees. The City of Richland Center has designated their City Administrator as the ADA coordinator.

CDC statistics for Wisconsin Disability rates were discussed specifically regarding physical, mental, hearing, vision, and self-care disabilities and how common these disabilities are in Wisconsin.

Garner provided a review of ADA title sections 1-5 and noted the following items:

- Title I: Employment
ADA concerns under this title should be first handled with the Personnel and Insurance Committee in coordination with the ADA coordinator. The ADA committee would only become involved at their request, or the request of the common council.
- Title II: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services
This is likely the primary focus point for the ADA committee to coordinate ADA compliance in regard to how the City provides public services, transit, new facilities, and modifications.
- Title III: Public Accommodations and in Commercial Facilities
The Committee may look for opportunities via economic development to promote additional access to local businesses, but it is the responsibility of the local businesses to be ADA compliant without intervention.
- Titles IV and V were not discussed in this meeting.

The City of Richland center has a Title VI / ADA plan last revised on August 18th 2020. The committee will review this plan as part of the on-going scope.

The Committee decided to concentrate on addressing physical barriers within the community, relying on data and public input. They identified key areas of concern: sidewalks, municipal facility ADA compliance, parks, taxi services, city events, and law enforcement.

Regarding sidewalks, the Committee will prioritize improving conditions at city corners, crossings, and residential properties, as well as addressing specific locations like Church Street. To ensure municipal facilities meet ADA standards, the Committee acknowledged a firm may need to be hired to conduct a comprehensive evaluation. For parks, the Committee supports Garner's efforts to address ADA concerns with the Park Board and prioritizes the development of an inclusive park, with Symon's Director Mike Hardy actively pursuing grant opportunities. With taxi services subject to existing ADA regulations, the Committee will focus on increasing ADA compliance considerations for city events and seek more information on law enforcement training related to distinguishing between medical/disability and criminal behavior.

The Committee outlined the following scope and priorities:

- **Departmental Engagement:** Inviting department heads to each meeting to discuss the impact of ADA on their respective departments, common ADA issues, specific needs, and to answer questions.
- **Infrastructure Assessment:** Conducting a comprehensive inventory of sidewalks and intersections to identify areas requiring improvement and develop a corrective action plan.

- **Regulatory Review:** Reviewing city ordinances and other relevant documents to ensure ADA compliance.
- **Data Gathering:** Collecting additional information and data to inform future planning efforts.
- **Prioritizing Fundamentals:** Ensuring a strong foundation of ADA understanding and implementation before expanding into more complex initiatives.
- **Committee Membership:** Whenever possible, the Committee recommends at least one member of the committee to be a person with a disability.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS The Committee requests RCPD Chief Jones to attend their next meeting to address ADA matters related to operations of the Police Department.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 10th at 5:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Downs, seconded by Garner. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:22PM.

Meeting Minutes Recorded by Casey Garner