

***DAGWould?***  
***Board Meeting Minutes***

June 20, 2019

The second DAGWould? meeting was held on Thursday, June 20, 2019 at the disABILITY Resource Center on Cross Park Dr.

**I. Call to order**

Cindy Pionke, Strategic Facilities Engineer/ADA 504 Coordinator for Knox County, called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. She recognized and thanked DAGWould? members who were present for the meeting: Tim Adams, Anna Bass, Nancy Brown, Mark Brogan, Katherine Moore, and Shazi Ahmad.

**II. Ice Breaker**

- a) Coordinator Pionke opened the meeting with a discussion about what would be at the top of the list to fix with regards to accessibility issues in Knox County's libraries, parks, schools, greenways, etc.
- b) The following priorities were discussed: automatic doors, school access and accessible parking, more accessible bathroom stalls, better bus stop signs, and more programming in schools and senior centers to help involvement in sports, band, and other activities.

**III. Presentation**

Coordinator Pionke presented a power point overview based on Knox County's draft report from the Fall of 2018 entitled: Creating More Accessible Communities: Knox County's Plan for the Future. She plans on sending out the current draft of the ADA Transition plan before the next DAGWould? meeting.

a) **Self-Evaluation Findings**

(1) Department Surveys and Interviews

- (i) Based on the departmental surveys and interviews with members of various departments from air quality to engineering to finance and parks and recreation, etc., a common finding across the board was how behind Knox County was. There was no ADA grievance policy in place, public notice policy, nor was there a policy or procedure to track ADA related complaints or requests for accommodations. There was also no departmental guidance to ensure programs and events are ADA compliant.

- (ii) It was noted that although groups of individuals met to discuss and work on ADA issues in the past, nothing was officially sanctioned by the elected officials of Knox County. This is the first time Knox County has appointed a committee to address the ADA.
- (iii) The following policies and procedures were recommended to be developed by the County:
  1. Reasonable accommodation policies and procedures
  2. Service animal policies and procedures
  3. Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act policy, procedure, and form with appeals process
  4. Retaliation or coercion policy
  5. Consistent County-wide non discrimination statement
  6. Alternate format policy and procedure, and
  7. Guidance regarding effective communications efforts and policies.

(2) Facility Evaluations

- (i) Types of facilities evaluated included: Libraries, senior centers, schools, parks, greenways, signalized intersections, sidewalk corridors, PBA managed facilities, and solid waste centers.
- (ii) Common compliance issues found (and illustrated with pictures) were: lack of accessible and/or appropriate slope with regard to parking, appropriate counter height, accessible restrooms, compliant staff amenities, appropriate height of door thresholds, accessible spectator seating, access to push buttons, cracking, ponding, and obstructions on sidewalks, and lack of cross slopes and/or color contrast at crosswalks. Many of these issues were supposedly fixed; however, as shown in accompanying pictures they clearly were not fixed appropriately.

b) **ADA Transition Plan Development Steps**

- (1) Determine isolated facility priority
  - (i) Known complaints
  - (ii) Severity of non-compliance



- (3) Adopt PROWAG
- (4) Input on existing projects
- (5) Adding to Knox County website

#### **IV. Open Discussion**

The committee was asked to review the current draft of the ADA Transition Plan. It was also asked to identify additional topics it may want to learn about in order to possibly invite educational guest speakers to future meetings on such topics.

Cindy Pionke, Strategic Facilities Engineer/ADA 504 Coordinator for Knox County, adjourned the meeting at 4:30p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Shazi Ahmad, Secretary