

DAGWould?

Board Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2019

The third DAGWould? meeting was held on Thursday, July 18, 2019 at the disABILITY Resource Center on Cross Park Drive, Building E, Suite 135.

I. Call to Order

Cindy Pionke, Strategic Facilities Engineer/ADA 504 Coordinator for Knox County, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. She recognized and thanked DAGWould? members who were present for the meeting: Tim Adams, Nancy Brown, Mark Brogan, Katherine Moore, Stanley Taylor, and Shazi Ahmad. She also informed the committee that the DAGWould? website is up and will continue to have information added including agendas, minutes, and pictures to be taken at our next meeting.

II. Ice Breaker

1. Coordinator Pionke opened the meeting with a discussion about what the community-at-large needs fixed first based on what we saw and heard at the last meeting; and by what we learned from the Transition Plan.
2. The following were discussed as areas of major importance: schools, public buildings, and transportation-including pedestrian walkways, ramps, curb cutouts, public buses, and on demand transportation.

III. Discussion of the Transition Plan

- Per the discussion at the June meeting and after reading through the Transition Plan, the committee discussed various factors to look at the many high priorities addressed. Among these were:
 1. Worst/most needed
 2. Easy fixes
 3. Cost (cheapest first to show progress)
 4. Facility at a time
 5. One specific item at a time (e.g., automated doors, grab bars)
 6. Time of the year for least interruption of services (e.g., school projects to be completed during the summer break)
 7. Public facilities with multi-purpose uses (e.g., locations used as voting locations)
 8. Highest risk/dangerous locations
 9. Training various departments on the ADA for effectiveness in carrying out the needed changes so they are done correctly and holding these departments accountable for implementing said training
 10. Combination of all of the above

- The committee was in agreement that a combination of these priority factors is the ideal way to proceed, and that weighing them in terms of importance should be considered.
 - Data needed to help prioritize these factors:
 - Usage rates of various public buildings (e.g. health departments, senior centers, libraries, solid waste centers, greenways, etc.)
 - Public building locations with regard to proximity to public transit access
 - Which public buildings are used for multiple purposes and the frequency of such uses
 - Schools:
 - 504 Plan
 - Individualized Educational Plans
 - Crash data
 - Traffic
 - High accident counts
 - Pedestrian priority areas
 - Population growth data
 - Industrial
 - Residential

- Pionke informed the committee that the Federal government has started cracking down, and will start withholding federal dollars across the country if we do not have a transition plan in place by December 31st. We must show that we are spending money sufficient for the size of our jurisdiction and size of our existing budget, and that we are making progress towards compliance.

- To help with this overwhelming project, Pionke invited the committee to attend the next County Commission meeting on August 19, 2019 at 5:00pm in the large assembly room of the City/County Building. DAGwould?'s presence would make the commission aware of the committee's existence and that the committee is serious about its goals and expect to see funding to make these projects move forward.

- The committee was also informed of the 2019 Mayoral Forum (hosted by the Mayor's Council on Disability Issues) on July 23, 2019 at 5:30, should anyone be able to attend.

- The committee was informed that at the moment, there is no line item for the ADA in the budget, but finance has set up an account number. It is a work in progress and it will show up in next year's budget as a true line item once some projects get underway.

- To do list going forward:
 - County to Adopt Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)

 - DAGWOULD?
 - Communicate thought process and decision-making with complete transparency and announce forthcoming changes.
 - Once priorities are identified and agreed upon, document with before and after pictures to show progress.
 - Put all information and progress on website to keep the public informed.

IV. Open Discussion

The committee discussed how Knoxville and Knox County, as well as the surrounding cities and counties, all have their own transition plans because each receive their own federal funds. Everyone was in agreement that it makes sense for the city and county to work together and recognize they are stronger together than apart, and that once the decision-making process begins to expect lots of discussion on each issue since they involve high dollar amounts.

Cindy Pionke, Strategic Facilities Engineer/ADA 504 Coordinator for Knox County adjourned the meeting at 4:25p.m.