

City of Tigard
Focus Group Meeting #1
4/18/18 - 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Attendees: Bob Cerbone, Lisa Detweiler, Natasha Lynch, Vicki March, Tristan Roberts, and Michael Stevens (not in attendance: Eileen Kovac and Patricia Rice), City staff Lori Faha and Nadine Robinson, and consultants Tim Gilbert, Heather Buczek, and Ed SanFilippo

The first Focus Group of the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan was held on April 18, 2018 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Tigard Public Library, 13500 SW Hall Blvd. At this meeting the Focus Group was oriented to the scope of work of the plan and the schedule. This was followed by a discussion of strengths, opportunities, issues, and challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in the community, and a discussion of planning priorities for the project.

General Comments

- The Tigard-Tualatin school district is fully inclusive (one of the few districts in the whole state) and this draws people to the community from all over the country.
- Inclusive parks and playgrounds are important, especially for kids to interact with their peers on play equipment. The city has been responsive to requests for accessibility modifications in the past.
- Contacting the Access Board came up regarding general questions. The Access Board contact list can be found here: <https://www.access-board.gov/contact-us>

Issues

- Paths in parks, especially new paths, need to be accessible for individuals that use mobility devices, especially manual wheelchairs. Engineered wood fiber, dirt, and sand paths are consistently inaccessible.
- A more streamlined process is needed regarding City engineering requirements for home improvement projects that have an impact on the right-of-way that requires ADA upgrades.
- Better policies and planning are needed for special events, to ensure accessibility. Accessible parking on gravel is not an appropriate alternative solution during large events.
- When sound amplification is inadequate it can create barriers at public meetings for persons who are hard of hearing. ASL interpreters are not appropriate when assistive listening devices are needed. Additionally, there have been instances of staff giving the impression that modification requests for hearing accommodations are unwelcome or inconvenient and this discourages civic participation.
- Some streets without sidewalks have traffic that moves too fast for small children or people with disabilities. Sidewalks are the preferred solution, but alternatives such as painted lines along the roadway or other traffic barriers are alternate approaches when a sidewalk is infeasible.
- Doors at park bathrooms are often heavy and have no automatic entry. Even when generally accessible, bathrooms can still have barriers. For example, bathrooms at parks

do not have changing tables/benches for adults and large children, and single-sex bathrooms create challenges when an opposite-sex child or spouse has a disability. Family and/or single-user restrooms can help alleviate some of these challenges.

- Garbage cans and basketball hoops on sidewalks are barriers for pedestrians using mobility devices.
- More outreach is needed from the police about life safety identification for people with disabilities and information about fee waivers for alarm permits.

Action Steps

- City staff will provide names and addresses of newly developed parks in Tigard for Focus Group review and comment.
- City staff will contact garbage collection companies regarding placement of garbage cans in the sidewalk.

