

Minutes for the Strategic Planning Meeting

June 23th, 2014

*The following is not a word-for-word transcription of the meeting

Richard: There are two major issues:

1) Transition Plan

At a conference with workshops on the Transition Plan, they indicated the government is cracking down on governments who have not completed the plan.

Alex legal intern is heading up this project.

Several parts:

a. Department Questionnaire in progress

Do we want to e-mail out to department heads? OR

Do we want to make an appointment with Director and review questionnaire?

b. Complete Facility Survey

Once we complete plan, if the government finds that we have not made the necessary changes they can "come down on us"

We desire public works' help to impress upon the director that the plan is important

Ryszard: Professional engineering is necessary for the facility reviews. Measuring can be done by anyone, but changes need to be done by professional engineers. Someone without a license should not do this. Department of public works has such engineers. If they receive an order from ADA coordinator they may make changes, but the request must be done in a formal way. If anyone without P.E. implements the transition plan it may expose the city to potential lawsuits. Bureau of Transportation has the architects necessary to do this. If we cannot access these individuals we must seek outside qualified professionals.

Transition plan should be implemented by professional engineers. They should decide who is responsible for each aspect.

Unknown: What is the transition plan?

Richard: We must understand all of the limitations and the problems the city has under title II of the ADA. A lot has to do with policies, procedures and construction. The first step is to gather information and the next step is to do a report on what needs to be done. The last stage is to determine the best strategy for remedying shortcomings. For instance, none of the city buildings have hearing loops.

Schenley Park is no longer a city facility. They just renovated the restrooms to be accessible but they are not up to date. We also evaluated three of the public works district centers which were not compliant in the slightest.

We are about a 1/3 finished with the facility survey. I don't know if the Department of Public works has made any progress.

Ryszard: It is difficult to know because there are so many divisions.

Richard: We deal largely with Title one and Title two.

We have an architectural firm that we are working with for the One Step Program. He must always go to the client because his home is completely inaccessible. However, this is often not the case with other architects.

Alexa is finishing the questionnaire now. We are hoping to get it done by the time her term is over.

There is also disability mentoring day. This year is larger than ever. There is a request to place twice as many interns. The Department of Public works always takes two. Interns love doing the field work. Last year for the first time we had several deaf and hard of hearing students. We may need to send them out in different field situations than the other interns. Disability mentoring day is every third Sunday in October. We have no clue about what to do with the Department of Public Safety because they have no director. Disability mentoring day gives these kids the chance to see what public service is like. Most of the time we do not have students mentored by the Bureau of Engineering-they only work with construction.

Ryszard: Vision is different for those with visual impairments and this requires assistance. The intersection and location of curb ramps is very important. Sometimes designers cannot understand the difficulties that individuals with visual impairments have or what they see. This will potentially help with the design of curb ramps.

In 2013, the construction division only completed 45% of the necessary curb ramp changes. I received the 311s and helped design these ramps. To see these 311 requests go to J drive/departement of public works/streetdivision/ryszardjanik

Ruchard: Why is it only 45%?

Ryszard: Because there are no funds. There is only \$100,000 per year available for these projects. Maybe they should increase this.

Richard: We will look into it. We are having the same issue with accessible traffic lights. So, we have been doing crowd funding.

We will check on the curb ramps. You (Ryszard) will check on getting more students for disability mentoring day and we will keep you update with the transition plan.

Ryszard: I will help with the transition plan because it requires professionals. First, there needs to be some order from the director or yourself.