

**2/27/18 AGENDA, ITEM 6c - REPORT ON ADA ASSESSMENT & PROPOSED DECOMPOSED GRANITE PATH ON GREENBELT
SUPPLEMENTAL LETTER FROM ACCESS HERMOSA SUBMITTED TO CITY COUNCIL ON 2/26/18 AT 1:28 P.M.**

February 26, 2018

Dear Hermosa Beach City Council Members,

We, the resident members of the Access Hermosa Working Group, have focused on access for all to the Greenbelt, one of Hermosa Beach's most prized open spaces, since October 2016. This group, convened by the former city manager, meets monthly with city staff in order to improve accessibility for all residents and visitors within our City. **Currently many residents and visitors are not able to access public resources within the city due to disabilities or physical challenges (e.g. wheelchair bound, dependent on a walker or cane, etc.) restricting their ability to walk freely. The Access Hermosa Working Group is committed to making Hermosa Beach an equal access city for all.**

To date, our accomplishments include:

- development of an educational campaign, in partnership with city staff and the police department, designed to clear cars blocking sidewalks to create safe access for all particularly on the Safe Routes to School sidewalks.
 - Positive measures include the recent community-wide garage sale that helped residents remove their cars from blocking the sidewalk and into their garages. This event received overwhelming support and buy-in from residents and other stakeholders.
- increased accessibility to the beach allowing disabled and physically challenged residents and visitors to participate in public events.
- increased accessibility at community events, working jointly with our Police Department and the Chamber of Commerce, such as Fiesta Hermosa, State of the City and the St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- implementation of designated ADA seating in City Council Chambers to allow for greater participation for those with physical challenges.
- engaged in community outreach to our local civic, government and community organizations (e.g. Rotary Club, HBCSD School Board, Woman's Club, Hermosa 50, THRIVE HERMOSA, Community First) to educate, raise awareness and gain consensus for the need for Hermosa Beach to be accessible for all.
- a commitment from Caltrans for \$780,000 for PCH repairs to improve ADA access that will be disbursed over the current and subsequent fiscal year.
Current proposed repairs have been identified by Public Works and await final State approval.
- engaged in a collaborative effort with staff to improve Community Center ADA parking and access. Automatic door openers have already been installed in several locations in the building. Currently Access Hermosa is working with city staff to develop new accessible ramps adjacent to ADA parking spaces.
- placement on the March 21, 2018 Public Works Commission agenda to present our recommendations to increase visibility of sidewalk curb-ramps, specifically painting the ramps with reflective paint. This will increase safety and access for disabled and physically challenged persons, children walking to school, parents with strollers and all pedestrians who use our sidewalks and Safe Routes to School.

We now respectfully request that you, the Hermosa Beach City Council, move forward with the next steps recommended in the February 21, 2018 Staff Report *ADA Assessment to the Greenbelt* to progress towards providing access to ALL members of our community to the Greenbelt. Please note it is stated in the staff report that within Plan Hermosa's Parks and Open Space element under Goal 4, to provide "Direct and accessible routes and connections to parks, recreational facilities, and open space." This includes the Greenbelt.

Access Hermosa strongly urges you to honor this Plan Hermosa Goal and to move forward towards implementation of an inclusive all-access Greenbelt. At this time we recommend you direct staff in collaboration with Access Hermosa Working Group, to research viable options to provide access for all on the Greenbelt. This does not mean any material would need to be decomposed granite. There are other options. We merely request investigation of all options with the end goal being equal access to the Greenbelt. To that end, the previously allocated \$28,000 in May 2017 should be used to conduct trials of possible accessible pathway product solutions. Our group is committed to accessibility, but also aesthetics, and we know both objectives can be accomplished without sacrificing one for the other.

We thank you for your time and urge you to consider those who are not able bodied when making your decision.

Respectfully the resident members of Access Hermosa,

Al Benson
Andrea N. Giancoli
Geoff Hirsch
Kerianne Lawson, Beach Cities Health District
Isabel Rodriguez
Beth Rohrer
Rob Saemann
Christine Wike