



Memorandum

Community Resources Department • 710 Pier Avenue • Hermosa Beach, CA • 90254 • 310.318.0280

To:	Hermosa Beach Mayor and City Council
From:	Kelly Orta, Community Resources Manager
Date:	August 20, 2019
RE:	Letter from Geoff Hirsch Regarding Accessibility Concerns at the AVP event

The AVP Hermosa Beach Open beach volleyball tournament was held on the north side of the Pier from July 26 - July 28, 2019. An event of this magnitude requires an extreme amount of logistical planning, coordination with many specialty teams, and successful implementation. With the event taking place on the soft sand, this alone creates challenges that the event producers and staff have worked through to ensure the event is accessible and meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

Mr. Hirsch outlines several concerns that he experienced while attending the event on Thursday, July 25, which is prior to the main matches for the tournament. The following details staff's efforts to remedy these concerns and the Event Producers commitment to ensuring their event is accessible.

- The entry mat at 13th Street, mistakenly, did not have the ramp connected to it, so there was an abrupt rise to enter the mat, which was difficult to navigate over. The production team quickly remedied this with the placement of a ramp, which remained throughout the event weekend.
- Due to the fact that people could navigate on and off of the mats easily, a lot of sand collected on the mats. Unfortunately, there is no way to prevent this from happening. AVP ensured that their team regularly swept the mats to eliminate sand buildup or collection.
- Pathways to each individual vendor are not required under ADA guidelines. Specific to the AVP Hermosa Beach Open event, its logistical design was thoughtfully done to allow the vendor area with enough space for the accessible pathway to run through the middle as well as easy navigation to the stadium court. Although direct access to each vendor tent on the beach is not required for special events, each vendor must provide additional assistance to those who are unable to access their tents such as walking items to the individuals and providing them with their service options in areas that are accessible. AVP event producers confirmed that their vendors would provide this service to anyone in need.

We will continue to work with event producers to ensure their events provide the highest level of access to allow everyone, regardless of mobility difficulties, to enjoy these activities.

From: Geoff Hi
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2019 6:45 PM
To: City Council <citycouncil@hermosabch.org>
Cc: Ann Yang <anny@hermosabch.org>; craigc@surfrider-southbay.org
Subject: Accessibility Issues AVP event

Hello,

Despite the personal lobbying efforts of myself and the Access Hermosa working group over the past 3 years, this event has done little to improve accessibility for those persons with challenges, namely:

- the entrances to the event remain inaccessible.

Entry mats are covered with sand, making them inaccessible; in addition, there is a large bump at the entrance, making the entrance inaccessible.

- additionally, these mats are covered by several inches of sand in numerous places, again making them inaccessible; they should be swept several times a day.

- despite being assured by Andrew, (person in charge of setup), that all vendor booths would have a pathway in and out, none of these booths have been modified.

As I mentioned earlier, 3 years is entirely too long to wait to achieve compliance with ADA standards .

Last year, Councilman Massey and then City Manager Jalilli attended a meeting of Access Hermosa; at that time members were cautioned about taking legal action - sadly, that is perhaps the only avenue left to ensure compliance with ADA standards.

Respectfully,

Geoff