

October 3, 2024

Deadwood City Commission
Attn: Sharon Martinisko
53 Taylor Street
Deadwood SD 57732

Mike -
This is a
huge issue. I'm
sure you will
follow up 😊
Sharon

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing you concerning the disabled parking spots as it pertains to the Days of 76 Rodeo Grounds.

I am a person with a disability, and I am substantially limited in the distance I am able to walk comfortably.

My experience this past summer at the Days of 76 Rodeo grounds provided handicap parking challenges for me. This was my first time attending the rodeo and I had tickets for Thursday, Friday and Saturday night events. All three evenings, I was unable to park in a designated handicap space, as all spaces were full. I drive an electric golf cart while staying in Deadwood, and this was my means of transportation to the Rodeo. My disabled parking sticker is fully visible to the parking staff.

Below was my parking experience at the Rodeo Grounds:

Thursday Evening

- Arrived, minimally 45 minutes to an hour prior to the rodeo start.
- Parking Security Staff advised there are no disabled handicap parking spaces available. My tickets were for the VIP Grandstand area.
- Parking Security Staff directed me to park in front of the Days of 76 Museum. Upon arrival to this location, all handicap spaces were filled.
- Unfortunately, my only option was to park in a regular parking space and walk around the football field to the VIP Grandstand and back the same route to get to my vehicle.

Friday Evening

- Repeat of Thursday evening
- No handicap parking available again. Directed to park near the Museum.
- Upon arrival at the VIP ticket entrance, I inquired in regard to handicap parking. I was directed to a committee member. She said, 'yes there is a shuttle service', if needed. I explained my situation of which she acknowledged and said she would further investigate.
- There was not a shuttle ride available for my return to the vehicle.

Saturday Evening

- Repeat of Thursday and Friday evening
- Not my first rodeo, Here we Go!
- No handicap parking available

On 11.14
P.F.T.

- I asked the parking attendant/security person to ask for a ride to be arranged to get me to the VIP Grandstand entrance. I was informed they were unaware of any such service, and nothing is available.
- I walked to the VIP ticket entrance, again and back at the end of the evening.

From my personal experience, it seems as if there was not a plan in place to accommodate disabled visitors. If there was a shuttle service available, it seems as if it was not communicated to the parking staff.

ADA requires accessible parking spaces to be located on the shortest accessible route to an accessible entrance.

I have been spending my summers in Deadwood for the past 15 years for a period of about 5 weeks. During that time, I attend the Sturgis Rally, Kool Deadwood Nights and this year the Rodeo. The majority of my stay is in Deadwood. During my stay and as a disabled person, I am able to park in a metered parking space with no charge. I park my daily driver in the Parking Ramp on Broadway. During Kool Deadwood Nights, I observed there are several temporary spots added in the Broadway parking structure to accommodate the disabled.

For the future, I am hoping that consideration will be given to modify and be more accommodating to persons with disabilities at the Rodeo Grounds during the Days of 76 Rodeo.

If you have any questions, I may be reached by email at richhawthorne@prodigy.net or phone 414-861-1326.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this matter.

Sincerely,



Rich Hawthorne
15075 W. San Mateo Ct
New Berlin WI 53151