

Mick Michel

From: Mike Murphy <mikemurphy3232@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 9:33 AM
To: Jeff Jacque
Cc: Mick Michel; John Wandsnider
Subject: ADA

Jeff,
Great discussion and action plan by the council concerning upgrading the Legion Building to include ADA and the comments concerning the need to improve our sidewalks.
I especially appreciated the acknowledgement of concern that was heard from the out of town group about access when they used the Legion Hall.

I have been speaking for some time about the need to improve our accessibility for not only our own residents but for visitors to town; a number we all hope will continue to climb.

About a year ago, I walked the downtown with John and a list of shop entrances with steps or other obstacles was created. I believe the number was well over 20 businesses. It was my understanding at that time the city was going to put together a plan of action similar to the facade program to identify and assist those properties. It would assist in providing access allowing handicapped individuals to enter their businesses.

Currently, three (3) out of eight (8) of our downtown eateries (that's about 40%) have floor height problems at their entrances (Family Restaurant, Ritz and Brew & Brew) restricting access by wheelchairs as well as a potential tripping hazard for the elderly.
The number of retail stores with access problems is even larger.

I would like to request you to place this issue on the council's agenda for a discussion at an upcoming meeting. It's been over thirty years since the Federal requirements were established to Eliminate these types of obstacles. It's time we quit stating that we need and want to work on this and actually do work on it.

Especially, no city funds should again be given to a business with entrance issues under the facade program unless the issue of accessibility is resolved.

I know everyone is well meaning about this issue but it takes action, action many other cities have been able to achieve, to resolve the issue in Dyersville. The city and council are doing great things for the town's growth and prosperity. But this issue, which may appear small to many, represents one more hurdle in a life of our handicapped citizens and their families.

Thank you,
Mike Murphy

Sent from my iPad