

2021 BROOKINGS DISABILITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Mission Statement:

Overview:

We advocate for the rights of people in our community who have disabilities. Throughout the year, specific events are held to bring awareness and information to our citizens.

The Brookings Disability Awareness Committee was created to provide a framework for community-based advocacy in the removal of mobility and attitudinal barriers faced by individuals with disabilities. The Committee's purpose directly corresponds to the City's goal to provide a high quality of life for its citizens. This is a service not provided by any other entity in Brookings.

The goals of this Committee are to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities through enhancing the knowledge base of entities in the community; and to further serve as a community-based advocacy group enhancing the ability of local entities to comply with Federal Civil Rights legislation. Results are measured by the number of interactions with the public and positive outcomes in advocacy situations.

Key Projects/Activities:

	Description	Status
1	Accessibility Reviews (by request): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April: Brookings Property Management request • May: Public Library Mothers Room Renovation • January: Larson Ice Center Training Area Buildout 	100%
2	Mayor's Proclamations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March: Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month • July: ADA Day • October: National Disability Employment Awareness Month 	100%
3	Awareness Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July: Brookings Community Band Concert: Sponsored treat SDSU Ice Cream • July: ADA Day Gift Baskets to Community Partners • August: Listening Session Collaboration with the Human Rights Commission 	100%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October: White Cane Awareness Day Walk December: Mayor’s Award Ceremony: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children’s Museum: Empower Award Cinema 8: ABLE Award (Ability, Belief, Leadership, and Equality to Achieve Access for All) December: SDSU Student Union Festival of Trees: Sponsored Tree 	
4	<p>Internal Committee Improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March: Changed Committee name to that shown, more concise and to the point. May: BDAC Webpage Review July: Purchased banner/table runner for event branding awareness. November: Organized yearly Work Plan of next year’s events November: Reorganized Sub-Committees to account for clarified Work Plan events 	<p>-</p> <p>100%</p> <p>50%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p>

Successes:

- Maintained yearly schedule of Mayor’s Proclamations.
- Maintained a Facebook page for broadcasting of local and regional events, and for general public education.
- Generated several local media pieces around committee’s work
- Added 4 new members
- Safely conducted a new awareness event (White Cane Awareness Day Walk)
- Created a refined Work Plan and Task Force for preparation into 2022 and future years.

Challenges:

- Still catching up from impact of COVID on annual events and virtual attendance.
- Maintain active engagement from all Committee members through virtual attendance.
- How to effectively reach and connect with other local organizations to effectively broadcast disability awareness efforts already in motion.

Looking Ahead / Goals

ACCESSIBILITY REVIEWS (BY REQUEST)

- Continue reviews of projects funded partially, or entirely, by the City of Brookings as they occur.
- Provide non-official ADA reviews to any public or private entity at the request of the entity.

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATIONS

- Continue annual proclamations as in years before.
- Possible expansion of annual proclamation schedule to include 1-3 other months.

AWARENESS EVENTS

- Maintain an annual schedule of prior year's successful BDAC-sponsored events.
- Expand events to include other considered annual events:
 - Booth at Downtown at Sundown
 - Organize Group Parade entry with local partners
 - Movie Night at Cinema 8 for individuals with disabilities
- Work with local partners to broadcast and share resources for events already occurring in the community
- Place more emphasis on recognizing individuals with disabilities on a recurring basis, and their importance in their community.

INTERNAL COMMITTEE IMPROVEMENTS

- Follow through on a refined Work Plan
- Find motivation and improve committee member engagement for all participants. Find what motivates them and effectively utilize their interests for the benefit of the community.

