

Brookings Disability Awareness Committee
Date: 5/28/2026
Brookings City and County Government Center
520 3rd St, Room 241
Brookings, SD 57006
Phone (605) 692-6281

Attendance: Mark Sternhagen, Carrie Smith, Jason Hodne, Jamy Schomaker, Ramona Kauk, lacy Knutson (Arrived 12:03pm), Ali Teesdale (Arrived 12:03pm), Aysia Platte, Lacey Klingbile, Jennifer Mees

SDSU Student Liaison: Isabelle Weller (**absent**)
BSD Liaison: (**absent**)
SDSU Liaison: Jenny Hallan
City Staff Liaison: Maureen

1. Mtg called to order @ 12:00pm
2. Approval Items
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Minutes
 - i. Motion to approve minutes and agenda: Ramona motion, Jamy 2nd: first vote ali and Lacy were not present.
3. Public Comment/introductions: None
4. Budget updates:
 - a. \$3,000.00
5. Officer Updates:
 - a. Carrie
 - i. pool is open and sensory swim will start next week.
 - b. Mark
 - i. None
 - c. Jennifer
 - i. None
 - d. Publicity
 - i. Send any materials to Aysia to promote
 - e. Liaisons:
 - i. Mauriene
 1. Shared Global Accessibility Awareness proclamation read as it was not able to be read at City Hall meeting due to change in scheduling.
 - ii. SDSU
 1. Addressing Digital access and physical accessibility in the parking lots and buildings through out the district.
 - iii. BSD

1. Absent

6. Speaker:

- a. South Dakota Center for Disabilities
 - i. Unable to attend this date.

7. Access Issues

- a. Library
- b. Mark attended a meeting located at the library and when he arrived the door opener did not work on one side of the building. Maureen spoke with the library and they reported that the hard wired electricity to the button had been changed to battery when windows and doors were replaced previously. Due to the continued issue they are now looking at possibly hard wiring back in to ensure continued access.
- c. Service Animals -
 - i. Emotional support Animal - was contact by community member in which landlord was requiring them to declaw cat, but was not listed in
- d. Parking
 - i. Studio 41 locations originally retail space, but now houses Shorty's Hotbox and the parking is being re-evaluated to ensure accessible parking.
- e. Voting in Brookings
 - i. Importance on accessible spots for voting and educating others on the importance of absentee and early voting for those that benefit from that.
- f. Resource for Cerebral Palsy
 - i. A resource was provided by a brookings citizen in which they wanted to have added to the list of resources available online. This national resource was added.
- g. Follow up from Alexis Truskolawki Access in fraternal houses
 - i. A policy is in place to ensure that if there is a need for access those needs will be addressed.

8. Work plan Items

- a. Digital Access Awareness May 19th
- b. ADA proclamation
 - i. July 26, 2026
 - ii. Authorization to have an executive committee review and make any possible changes needed.
 - 1. Ramona motion, Carri 2nd Vote: Yes: Lacey K, Jason, Ramona, Jamy, Lacy K., Ali, Aysia, Jen, Carrie, Mark; No: 0
 - iii. Awards
 - 1. Press release will be published Friday, May 29, 2026.
 - 2. Nominations need to be submitted by July 17, 2026.
 - 3. ABLE Award
 - a. Business that goes above and beyond in supporting access to disabled individuals in our community.
 - 4. EMPOWER

- a. Business that employees disabled individuals and goes above and beyond in supporting those individuals

9. Events/Publicity Discussion

- a. Committee to plan treats/meal etc. for July Meeting
 - i. Lacy knutson & Jamy
 - ii. Qudoba
 - 1. Carrie motion to allocate Budget \$250.00, Lacy K. 2nd
 - 2. Vote: Lacey, Jason, Ramona, Jamy, Lacy, Ali, Aysia, Jennifer, Carrie, Mark; No: 0
- b. Merch to handout
 - i. Refrigerator Magnets
 - ii. Mark requested \$200.00 to allocate towards having Refrigerator magnets containing QR code that directs them to BDAC facebook page
 - 1. Motion: Aysia Motion to allocate \$250.00 towards as many magnets as this amount would allow. Ramona 2nd. Vote: Lacey, Jason, Ramona, Jamy, Lacy, Ali, Aysia, Jennifer, Carrie, Mark
 - iii. Other items to hand out
 - 1. Fidget strips with our logo - Ramona will research further.
 - iv. Business window sticker/cling recognizing that they meet ABLE Criteria
 - 1. We could list these businesses and they would be able to advertise their ability to meet this criteria by placing something within their business that recognizes this.
 - 2. Create subcommittee
 - a. Jamy, Jennifer, Aysia currently committed

10. Meeting Date/Format June 25, 2026 Noon is next scheduled

- a. Meet in person during summer

11. Adjournment

- a. Motion to Adjourn by Carrie, Ramona 2nd;
- b. Vote: Yes: Lacey, jason, ramona, Jamy, lacy, Ali, Aysia, Jennifer, Carrie, Mark; No: 0
- c. Adjourned at 1:01 pm