

Opinion re: Harmony CDD Website & ADA Compliance

A point of note regarding the three “Implementation Options” (found listed at the bottom of page 1-of-8 and top of page 2-of-8) in District Counsel’s “Recording of Meetings Memo”; to wit:

1. Remove all documents from the website that are not required statutorily and then ensure remaining documents are in a format that is readable by screen readers. This means that the removed documents can only be retrieved via a public records request.
2. Leave everything on the website but convert what is statutorily required into a readable format.
3. A full conversion to WCAG 2.0 standards. See <https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>

And, regarding the “Campus Suite[®] Proposal” for re-hosting of the entire Harmony CDD website plus “remediation” of 734 PDF files for ADA compliance.

As-of 09/23/2019, there is a total of 1,911 files of all types stored on the current host server of the Harmony CDD website; with 1,190 of these being PDF’s and the remainder being various “image” formats. Of the 1,190 PDF’s, there are 497 that are non-searchable / non-ADA compliant files; of which, 51 are duplicates. With the duplicates set aside, 446 (497-51) PDF’s remain as “remediation” candidates. Of those,

- 34 are Osceola County Records (we neither hold nor have access to originals),
 - 16 are HROA Sourced (we neither hold nor have access to originals),
 - 22 are Superseded (outdated & replaced by newer versions),
 - 28 are Pre-FY2015 Budgets, Assessments, & Audits,
 - 59 are Monthly Invoices (46 are pre-FY2017),
 - 247 are Pre-FY2015 Agendas & Minutes,
 - 31 are Pre-FY2016 Resolutions, &
 - 1 is a “Trails Map”.
- 438 Total

Deducting these leaves only 8 (446-438) PDF files, which consist of

- one (1) 2018 Rental Agreement (with the HROA),
- one (1) 2016 Agenda Supplement, &
- six (6) Engineering Reports,

that need corrective action to make them electronically “searchable” and hence “readable” by ADA assistive technologies.

Once this is recognized, you have to ask, “*Why in blazes would we ever consider hiring an outside vendor – who is long on sales hype & dire warnings but short on work details, all designed to instill fear and ensnare a new client – to ‘re-host’ the entire Harmony CDD Website and ‘fix’ ALL of the files to make them ADA Compliant?*” The required ‘fixing’ of files can be done by anyone with a copy of Adobe Acrobat[®]; and, if “HTTPS” (versus HTTP) is considered critical, the InfraMark IT man, Gary Hutton, can institute that switch-over on the current host.

Conclusion: The Harmony CDD website is already very close to being “in compliance” with virtually every aspect of the last two (#2 & #3), and most critical, items of District Counsel’s stipulated “Implementation Options”. Accordingly, the hiring of an outside vendor solely to “re-host” the website and “make it compliant” – and then forever after paying them a yearly fee for “maintenance” – is an unwarranted and ill advised expense.

Signed:

David Farnsworth