

I was present when Brad Johnson joined a meeting of the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition to present the work of the Outdoor Places program. It was impactful to learn that our city was considering how to make the addition of businesses' outdoor spaces accessible to people with disabilities. I use a manual wheelchair and have not been able to access some of the new outdoor spaces. Mr. Johnson extended an invitation to participate with the stakeholder advisory group, and I'm very happy that I was allowed both a look at the process, as well as a voice. It became immediately evident that the Outdoor Places program had been performing a great level of due diligence in investigating the needs of businesses and community members. It seemed unanimous that stakeholders feel that a greater potential for community and wellbeing flows from these business expansions. There is a great amount of complexity and nuance when drafting code to suit our varied structures, the potential users, and those who need to utilize sidewalks, streets, disabled parking spaces adjacent to these businesses. I hope that the City Council considers adopting the very well-considered recommendations by the Outdoor Places program.

Dr. Chad Winthrop

Denver resident and Outdoor Places stakeholder advisory group member