

July 27, 2010

ADA Accessibility Review Board

On July 27, 2010, the ADA Accessibility Review Board toured the newly renovated downtown library. The Board had reviewed the plans at their February 19, 2008, meeting. The renovation was a two year project; officially reopened in May 2010.

Members present were: Page Hudson, Matt Cain, Denny Theel and John Faundeen. No official business was conducted. Staff present: Gary Colwill and Carol Garry. Rick Bandy from the City Engineering Dept led the tour.

- 1) Accessible parking – at their February 19, 2008, meeting the Board recommended the use of the universal design (5' aisle and 11' stall) for the accessible parking. This design eliminates the need for an access aisle sign and creates two van accessible spaces without requiring additional footage. This recommendation was not followed. Bandy will look to see if the parking can be remarked to follow the Board's recommendation.
- 2) Accessible entry doors – the Board recommended using automatic sliding doors. This recommendation was put in place working through the fire code, child safety, and security concerns that were raised. The concern about fire exits on the east side not having access to the public sidewalk was brought up again. The exits allow for access to the outside of the building, but no accessible route to the sidewalk to allow escaping to a safe distance from the building.
- 3) The Board recommended installing auto door openers on the main restrooms.
- 4) The computer terminals used for looking up information are not accessibility-friendly. The Board would recommend having a designated terminal at the correct height and with sufficient approach/leg room to allow wheelchair access. If that is not feasible, designating one of the information/reference desks as accessible would work. All that would take would having space for someone in a wheelchair to have clear access – move one of the chairs out of the way or keeping the open end of the desk clear of materials. This makes it more approachable and inviting.

Overall the Board found the newly renovated library bright, warm and user friendly.