

**ADA ACCESSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD
MINUTES
January 31, 2012
Commission Room, City Hall
10:15 A.M.**

Disclaimer: The ADA Accessibility Review Board is a citizen board volunteering their time to give necessary feedback on projects of the City which may have an impact on Title II of The American's with Disabilities Act. The intent of the review is not to evaluate complete compliance with an accessibility standard, but to ensure overall programmatic accessibility. The Board is not presented all the information and is not given sufficient time for a thorough review. The Board's review is merely cursory and should only be considered a recommendation of the Board. The Board recommendation should not be considered a certification that the project meets ADA standards. The Board only reviews the project based on The American's with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines and other U.S. Access Board guidance and does not address any local codes, such as any building codes or fire and safety codes. Any conflicts in local codes should be addressed by the appropriate parties.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hoy called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m.

Board members present: Sarah Aldinger, Roseann Burkett, Matt Cain, Helen Hartmann, Doug Hoy, Page Hudson, and Eric Kritzmire.

Board member(s) absent:

Staff present: Colleen Moran, City ADA Coordinator and Carol Garry

Guests present: Rick Bandy and Shannon VerHey, City Engineering; Catherine Dekkenga, Architecture Inc.; and Dennis Theel, former board member and interested citizen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Aldinger moved to approve the minutes from the November 29, 2011, meeting
Kritzmire seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Not really unfinished business, but Kritzmire asked about the issue he recently had with the accessible parking at City Hall. Kritzmire contacted staff about not being able to get out of his van because the 'flippers' on his ramp were bent due to a gap/uneven sidewalk. ADA ARB staff contacted city engineering staff responsible for sidewalk complaints. Bandy and staff will go out after the meeting to review the situation.

NEW BUSINESS

Added Agenda Item – Upcoming Event Center Meetings – Shannon VerHey – Principal Engineer with the City and Event Center Project Engineer.

The Board was given a brief overview of the event center last fall reviewing a concept design of the proposed facility. Now that the project is moving forward the City has set up two committees to look at the design. One is made up of representatives from groups who will be bringing events to the space (facility/tenants). The other is the design element committee. These committees will be meeting every few weeks or monthly. The City feels the ADA user group is too large of a group to be represented by one member on either of these committees therefore will be setting up/hosting several community meetings for members of the ADA community to provide feedback. The ADA Accessibility Review Board will act as a sounding board and filter the ideas/comments to present to the national architect on the project. The national architect will be in Sioux Falls for meetings every other Thursday. VerHey asked if the Board would be flexible to accommodate a different meeting schedule to meet with the architects when they are in town. Most Board members can be flexible about scheduling meetings to coordinate with the event center architects.

The open house meetings will provide an opportunity for the community to give input. Hopefully this would eliminate concerns/complaints down the road since they've been given the opportunity to provide feedback. The open house meeting concept would use different stations with experts at each to explain a particular concept/issue. The Board should be present to hear what concerns are being voiced.

Meetings could be scheduled at a service agency that has a high user group. It would have to be a facility large enough for outside public to attend. Other options for meeting space could be community centers or the convention center.

Designating a focus for the different meetings like parking, accessible route, etc. would let the public know what accessibility issue would be addressed at any particular meeting.

Best meeting time would be 4-6pm. This would allow those who would come as part of their job and others who would come after work as interested citizens. If they use bus service, they would be able to attend while the system is still operating.

VerHey will let staff know when the meetings are set up.

Prairie West Branch Library – Rick Bandy & Catherine Dekkenga

This is the final phase of the Prairie West Branch Library – to be completed by Memorial Day, 2013. It is located at the corner of 26th Street and Discovery Avenue (West of 26th & Sertoma Avenue).

Sidewalk - The project will include sidewalk installation in the immediate project area. A Park/Public Works project in 2014 will install the remaining sidewalk.

Parking Lot - The current placement of the community gardens will move further east and will be on the east side of the parking lot. There will be four universal accessible parking spaces located on the north side of the parking lot closest to the library entrance using a drop curb to access the sidewalk. A drop off area with a drop curb will be located at the east end of the parking lot for those using the open park area to the north

and east. A seasonal restroom will be located on the east side of the building, accessed only from the outside. It is for park users and will be closed during the off season (winter).

Entrance – The entrance will have automatic door openers – mounted activators. Kritzmire questioned where the activators will be mounted. The drawing doesn't look like there is a clear space between the two doors if the opener is mounted on the wall between the two doors. Aldinger suggested mounting them on posts outside the door's swing.

Building Interior –The security system panels inside the second set of doors have approximately 45" opening between panels – wide enough for wheelchairs to pass through. The restrooms are on the left. An accessible family restroom will have a changing table. The restroom doors will have openers. Moran asked about the hand dryers in the restrooms, if they intrude into the accessible route. Dekkenga said the dryers and the trash receptacles will be recessed. Moran also suggested mounting the coat hook lower on the accessible stall door.

Meeting rooms are along the south wall with a movable wall between the two so it can be opened to one large space or closed for two smaller rooms. Three doors open into the rooms from the main area; two into the larger room and one into the smaller room. Theel questioned the approachable space for the meeting room doors. The drawing doesn't look like there's enough space beside the door to open it while in a wheelchair. Aldinger agreed that even though 18" is the rule, it's not enough space to open a door. Bandy agreed that it would be easy enough to adjust the space – make the sidelight wider by taking some of the space allowed for the counter on the inside of the room. There is a quiet study room, a toddler room, and a vending area. All of the library stacks will be accessible to wheelchair users. The computer desks are accessible and the library look-up computers are placed on a shelf around support columns. Staff has concerns about the design of these look-up stations. The current ones at the Main Library aren't very accessible – sufficient knee space. These stations will have a cantilevered surface from the support columns and one area will be lowered for accessibility. Hoy asked if the cantilevered surface would be a hazard for the visually impaired – they wouldn't be able to detect it. They could find the column, but would they run into the shelf first. Aldinger said that because these aren't located in the accessible path and because of the layout of the library a visually impaired person would be moving more slowly/cautiously vs. if it were a hallway or other accessible route. The library circulation desk is smaller as staff will not be stationary, but moving around the library. Staff expressed a concern about the 'unwelcome-ness' of the circulation desk for wheelchair users as there is no free space for them to roll up to for service. Either circulation desk staff's computer or the visitor chair is in the way. If the end of the desk is rounded that area could be an accessible space. Furniture is still being looked at and this issue will be considered when reviewing options.

Staff has a work room, a break room, and office area along the west wall.

Because this library is close to two schools, a teen area has been included so teens can have their own area. Two study rooms are at the north end.

The book drop-off has plenty of room to get close enough to the drop-off to be able to drop off books without getting out of the car.

Hoy wanted to know how a visually impaired person entering the library would know where to go? Is there a directory? The rooms will have Braille signage identifying what that room is. Aldinger stated as far as she is aware, the ADA doesn't require a directory. Moran said at one of the earlier event center meetings with citizens with disabilities, it was suggested that there be a different flooring material used where the Braille signage is posted to make the signage easier to find when 'caning'. Library staff should be made aware that people with visual impairments should be approached to offer assistance when they enter the library.

Moran thanked Bandy and Dekkenga for their thorough planning and presentation.

Kritzmire moved to recommend approval of the design with consideration given to the placement of the door opener activation buttons; the circulation desk accessibility for wheelchair users; the columned look-up computer 'bars' and the approachable space at the meeting room doors.

Hoy asked that the Board be updated on any of proposed changes. Bandy agreed to provide an update.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Staff asked the Board to think of some ways to honor Joel Niemeyer for his service to the City and his advocacy for people with disabilities. Niemeyer served on the Arena Access Board, PTAB board for two terms, and the ADA ARB for eight years. Both Hudson and Kritzmire said Niemeyer got them involved with this Board. Hudson suggested signage at an accessible seating area at the event center. Other suggestions were an accessible feature at a park, or the arena (elevator), or the Pavilion.

ADJOURNMENT

Kritzmire moved to adjourn, Hudson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Garry