

**ADA ACCESSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD  
MINUTES  
June 26, 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**

Vice Chair Aldinger called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

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

Board member(s) absent: Doug Hoy and Eric Kritzmire.

Staff present: Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guests present: Ron Bell, City of Sioux Falls Building Services.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Cain moved to approve the minutes from the April 24, 2012, meeting; Hudson seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The open house for the ADA accessibility features for the new events center has been rescheduled to July 12<sup>th</sup>, 5-7p.m. at SD Achieve.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Building code ADA updates – Ron Bell, Chief Building Official**

Bell's office enforces safety standards set out in the building code, the residential building code, the heating/air-conditioning/mechanical code, the fuel gas code, the electrical code, the plumbing code, and the international property maintenance code.

The building codes get updated every three years to keep current. Electrical and plumbing codes are governed by the state, the rest are published by the International

Code Council. Code changes go through an extensive process before any changes are made.

Looking for input on the proposed changes to ensure the changes will not create issues with the ability to comply or will not create affordability issues for those in the building industry. Bell wants the Board's input on the accessibility of the suggested changes. The accessibility requirements are found in Chapter 11 of the Building Code. The 2012 code change requires the use of the 2009 ANSI (American National Standards Institute) standards, replacing the 2003 standards. Those in the building industry and enforcing codes use these standards to insure following the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements as closely as possible.

Bell presented the changes from the 2009 International Building Code and reviewed the specific areas where the Americans with Disabilities Act has changed requirements. For example, in employee work areas – 'Common use circulation paths located within employee work areas that are less than 300 square feet in size...shall not be required to be accessible routes' has increased to 1000 square feet in size.

Another example is in the accessible units section – They changed the language from 'Group R-1 occupancies' to 'Accessible dwelling units and sleeping units'...

Under Public address systems section the size was defined as 15,000 fixed seats or more where audible public announcements are provided, 'they shall also provide prerecorded or real time captions of those audible public announcements'.

Many of the changes/exceptions give building designers and those who enforce the codes some basic clarification that was lacking in the code prior to the new updates.

Other changes were made to 'Toilet and bathing facilities'; 'Drinking fountains'; 'Saunas and steam rooms'; 'Variable message signs'; 'Transportation facilities'; and 'Emergency shelters'.

Current Local Amendments include:

Multilevel buildings and facilities – exception to accessible routes  
Signage for accessible parking spaces and access aisles requirements were added.  
Type A units – change from 20 units to 24 dwelling units or sleeping units and exceptions were added.

Comments from the Board/Public included concerns about proper signage and layout of ADA accessible parking spaces; changes in the kitchen counter/sink heights are good compromises.

Bell reminded the Board that he is interested in hearing from us on any accessibility issues in maintaining minimum standards for accessibility.

There will be a new process will be starting to allow online plan reviews and the hope is that the architects/designers will see the changes made to bring plans up to code and the builders will be following the updated plans.

**Cain moved to recommend approval of the proposed amendments to the building code as submitted; Hartmann seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Hartman asked if someone is parked in the ADA access aisles, what should a person do. The simple answer is to call the police so a ticket can be issued. The Disability Awareness Commission is working on resurrecting the COPP program – Citizens on Parking Patrol. A program was in place in the past using volunteers. It is just being developed. ILC is interested in being involved again, as they were with the past program.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Cain moved to adjourn, Burkett seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 pm**

Respectfully submitted by Carol Garry