

**ADA ACCESSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD
MINUTES
August 28, 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, Helen Hartmann, Eric Kritzmire, and Page Hudson.

Board member(s) absent: Doug Hoy and Matt Cain.

Staff present: Colleen Moran, City's ADA Coordinator and Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guests present: Terry Torkelson, SMG; Keith Thompson, Koch Hazard Architects; and Shannon VerHey, City's Engineering Dept.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hartmann moved to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2012, meeting; Hudson seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on 8th Street reconstruction project – regarding accessible route. This project was reviewed by the Board in November 2011 and we were aware of the issues with the grades and cross slopes. Prior to the cement being poured on the northwest corner – the corner with the most difficult compliance issues- staff met with the City's Project Engineer and Stockwell's Construction Manager. Options for the corner were discussed and moved forward with what was believed to be the best option. After the cement was poured it was reviewed again with Kritzmire providing input from the wheelchair user's prospective. The ramp accessed from the east off of Dakota Avenue is a bit steep and the ramp accessed from 8th Street is compliant. The grade for the east access was the best possible due to the existing grades, unmovable underground utilities in the area and the proximity of the parking ramp. If the ramp is too steep an individual should be able to travel around the radius to the compliant ramp off of 8th Street safely. Consensus

was that the corner was constructed as compliant as possible due to existing conditions. It is certainly better than the corner was before the reconstruction. Staff appreciated being consulted by the engineering team to work out an acceptable solution for the issues faced on this project. The Board can have an opportunity to walk through the project when it's done.

NEW BUSINESS

Review Input from July 12, Event Center ADA Accessibility Open House

Kritzmire, Burkett, and Hartmann, attended the meeting.

A list was created by a deaf community member on accessibility features for deaf; hard of hearing and deaf-blind individuals to be considered by the Event Center Design Team. These are just suggestions, not any kind of recommendation. This information was shared with the design team.

Input at meeting was good. The general feeling was those who attended were well educated about the Event Center when they left. The information provided was showing how the facility can accommodate the needs of people with disabilities.

Burkett received feedback afterwards that others would have attended had they known about the meeting. We sent out the notice to the members of the ADA Celebration Committee who are representatives from all the service agencies in town who provide services to individuals with disabilities. Press releases were sent out, also.

Some changes from the original plan presentation or recommendations:

Accessible parking. One area that was designated for parking has to be changed. The suggested location is within the School District's property and it would affect their green space. This takes twelve accessible spaces out of the total number of accessible spaces. The design had exceeded the required number by five spaces (55 required – 60 designated). There is time to work out the parking issues. The design team has other parking alterations in mind but would like to wait to see how the budget works out along with other factors before finalizing the parking plan. VerHey would ask the Board to defer recommending approval of the parking plan. He said they will bring the parking plan back to the board for review next year.

The recommended canopy at the drop off area is not going to work into the budget plan, so is no longer being considered.

They are incorporating the suggested change in location of the soap dispensers to eliminate the reach across the counter.

SMG will be the operation management company for the new events center. It will be their responsibility for program accessibility. They don't plan on changing the way they have been operating the other public venues they manage when operating the new event center.

Torkelson stated that the mobility impaired community is one of their bigger users groups and the accessible seating is generally sold out. The accessible seating in the event center has the more dispersed accessible seating than typical event centers. This will allow different price points for the accessible seating depending on the location.

For hearing impaired, they have been using the loop system and the in-ear FM wireless system. They currently have sixty-five in-ear and five loops. There is some new technology that they are researching. Interpreters are always made available with sufficient notice and are expensed through the promoter. Spot lighting for the interpreters is not always allowable depending on the nature of the program. The Arena doesn't have public pay phones due to expense. A TTY is available in the office. They have been researching a communication tool to be used at the box office.

Kritzmire has been attending hockey games for the past ten years and has not had problems with any accommodations he has needed.

Burkett asked about the carpeting. Large print carpeting on stairs removes the depth perception for the visually impaired.

The stairs will be concrete with metal nosing. Torkelson has put a white strip on the steps in the Arena to add contrast and they glow in the dark. Hartmann suggested using yellow.

Hartmann questioned if the elevators will be audible – indicate which floor it has stopped at. Aldinger said some indicator is ADA required; can be bell/chime.

Advertising for events should include a phone number or other contact information for requesting an accommodation.

Captioning is still being researched. There is a lot to consider, including the expense.

Kritzmire moved to recommend approval with the expectation the final parking plan will be brought to the Board for review. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board would like to walk –through before it opens and suggests having a public meeting for the disability community when it's ready to open.

Garry asked about the Arena Access Board – they met in the past to discuss accessibility issues. Torkelson said they haven't met in the recent past, but could start again if needed. It may work better to bring the issues to this Board or meet with the venue management yearly like we do with the sidewalk engineers or building services when the code is being updated.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 am

Respectfully submitted by Carol Garry