

**ADA ACCESSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD
MINUTES
September 25, 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 10:15 a.m.

Board members present: Sarah Aldinger (10:21a.m.), Roseann Burkett, Helen Hartmann, Doug Hoy, and Eric Kritzmire.

Board member(s) absent: Page Hudson and Matt Cain.

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

Guests present: Lorie Hogstad, City Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Burkett moved to approve the minutes from the August 28, 2012, meeting; Hartmann seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Regarding the zoo project slope issue; the Board was assured by the contractors that the path from the front gate to meet with the existing paths leading to the other areas of the zoo will meet the maximum 2% cross slope and 5% longitudinal grade criteria for designated accessible routes.

Tory Miedema, Park Development Specialist dropped off a drawing for the ADA Coordinator showing where the accessible path would go and the placement of the accessible tiles designating the accessible route. Miedema also stated that if there is still a problem following the accessible path, they could stencil zoo animals along the path to show the route without it 'screaming out' that this is the accessible path. This is more aesthetically acceptable than the colored concrete they are using at the front entrance. He said they use these stencils at the Omaha Zoo.

Moran said the plan gave a little clearer picture, but will probably visit the site sometime in the near future. Any board member is welcome to go along. Hoy and Burkett were interested.

NEW BUSINESS

Accessible Polling Places (Voting Centers) – Lorie Hogstad, City Clerk

Hogstad wanted input from the Board on polling places. Plans are being developed for the City to run the 2014 elections and would like to use the vote centers and electronic poll books again. This allows voters to go to any vote center to vote.

At the last election the vote centers were used, schools were designated as vote centers. A number of the schools did not work well due to parking and accessibility. When the election takes place during the school day, parking is difficult at the schools. With this in mind, the Clerk's Office started looking outside the box for more suitable voting places. Libraries, fire stations, and golf course club houses were mentioned as possibilities. The number of vote centers being considered is twelve to be in place by April 2014.

Faith Baptist Fellowship works well for wheelchair users according to Kritzmire. Hogstad said churches have been used in the past and if vote centers are established those who don't care to vote at a church would have the option of voting at another center. Hoy said the new Gloria Dei church would work well. Also, wellness centers might work, too. Most are accessible for those going there for rehab/therapy. Aldinger said churches would work well because they don't tend to be busy during the week.

Libraries would be another good option as they are dispersed throughout the community. They would have to open earlier and parking may be limited. Some fire stations have public meeting rooms and are accessible (the newer ones), though parking may be a problem with this option, too. The Arena/Convention Center/Events Center would also work well as a vote center.

Aldinger said the Instructional Planning Center is a school district building that would work well.

Garry suggested having a downtown location where those who work or live downtown can walk to vote; parking wouldn't be an issue. Other suggested downtown locations: the old Coliseum (foyer); the Orpheum (lobby); and the State Theater. Also, the mall might work. It has plenty of parking, they open early for walkers and it is not that busy on a weekday. They do charge for fundraisers to use the mall – a drawback.

Kritzmire suggested Active Generations as another possibility; there's plenty of parking and is accessible. It has been used in the past. Let staff know if you have any more suggestions and they will forward to the City Clerk's Office.

Hogstad said the City Council is interested in getting a good mix of voting centers. The school district said they would use the same voting centers that the City establishes.

The County may still have to use the designated polling places due to the larger numbers of voters voting in county sponsored elections.

Moran suggested blocking off additional accessible parking using the barricades that they use for special events in the parks. Hogstad said Moran has offered to assist in reviewing possible sites for accessibility. The Clerk's Office plan set up the voting centers prior to centers opening to make sure they are set up in a consistent, accessible manner.

Visually impaired people can use the auto-mark voting machines. Hartmann gets a sample ballot and fills it out at home and her husband helps her fill it out at the polling place. Hogstad offered to meet with Hartmann and her support group to review the process for using the auto-mark voting.

Walk -through of Project Greenway – tabled as no one could stay.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Kritzmire move to adjourn, with Hartmann providing the second. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am

Respectfully submitted by Carol Garry