



**AGENDA**  
**ADA Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, April 24, 2025**  
**3:00 PM**  
**Levy Senior Center: 300 Dodge Ave.**  
**Bobby's Room / Zoom**

**(I) CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Welcome guest speakers from Evanston's Parking team:

- Mike Rivera, Interim Director of Administrative Services
- Mark Turenne, Parking Operations Specialist and Disability Access Team Liaison

**(II) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**(III) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**(IV) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Updates about previous inquiries and grievances:

- Flower pot/crosswalk guidelines
- AMC curb cut

New inquiries and grievances:

- Zen Leaf dispensary
- Dog beach entrance punch pad
- City Hall Collector's Office door
- Library: NVDA for computers
- City Hall Council Chambers: hearing loop and caption screen request
- Prieto accessible restroom

- No parking area at residence for accessible path

Training/education updates:

- Neurodiversity Unmasked Training: 4/22
- Emergency Preparedness at Hill Arboretum: 5/6
- Advocacy Avenue at Prieto

Committee membership: welcome Lisa, Ted, and Aby!

Other items:

- Welcome new Accessibility Advisors!
- Sensory Toolkit Volunteering Event: 4/23
- Emergency Preparedness Planning for the Disability Community Survey
- Northlight Theatre representatives to attend May meeting
- Next meeting: Thursday, May 22 at Evanston Public Library

## **(V) COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

## **(VI) ADJOURNMENT**



**MINUTES**  
**ADA Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, March 27, 2025 @ 3:00 PM**  
Evanston Public Library/Zoom

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Members present: Murphy Monroe, Jack Kleisner, Litrea Hunter, Donna Stevens, Julia Pantoga, Matt Dinerstein

Guests: Alex Harrison, Aby Karottu, Lisa Kaya-Noble, Fred Wittenberg, Ted Gram-Boarini, John Kapetan, David Gayes, Ronnie McCarron

Staff: Yazarri Gutierrez (Senior Services Coordinator), Lauren Ruiz (Inclusion & Accessibility Division Manager), Amy Kellogg (Senior Services Division Manager), Audrey Thompson (Director of Parks & Recreation)

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The February 27 minutes were approved by Litrea Hunter and Julia Pantoga.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- A guest commented that Evanston has established streets which makes it difficult to add bike lanes and more access, shared that Illinois keeps encountering stumbling blocks for funding

**4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Updates about previous inquiries and grievances:

- Accessible parking at Endeavor Health/Evanston Athletic Club: Manager Ruiz met with a City engineer and the construction contractor to discuss layout of new accessible parking spots, other accessibility barriers in this area.
- Fountain Square flower pots: meeting scheduled to determine guidelines for planter placement prior to planters being re-set for spring.

New inquiries and grievances:

- Accessible buttons broken in Sherman parking garage: 5th floor; these were fixed within a few days.

- 2nd floor restrooms locked early at Robert Crown: immediately addressed. Restrooms should remain open throughout business hours.
- Resident curb cut inquiry: residents can hire own contractors, would need to pay 100% of the cost, need ROW permit from City. City can provide estimates once new season begins in spring.
- Un-shoveled business sidewalk at 607 Davis: Community Development team assists with these situations, sent an inspector out and it was addressed with the business.
- ADA warning pad loose at 718 Ridge: bolts were loose in this area, they have been replaced.

#### Training/education updates

- "Put Your Left Foot Forward" Parks & Rec Training, Feb. 26: Neurodivergent trainers from Search, Inc. joined the Parks & Rec supervisory team to lead a self-care and art session. This opportunity was funded by a grant Search received from the Evanston Arts Council.
- Robert Crown Preschool Staff Inclusion Trainings, Mar. 24 & Apr. 16: staffing has changed at the preschool so trainings were provided to ensure consistent communication and understanding.
- Advocacy Area coming to Prieto! Looking for ideas for new names for this area. Will focus on a different disability-themed topic each month and will provide facts and resources for visitors.

#### Committee membership

- Application & membership procedure updates: applicants are required to attend at least one meeting before consideration, will schedule a short interview with Commission and Committee Chairs and ADA Coordinator prior to decision being made.
- New applicants: 3 interviews scheduled for today. Lots of interest over the last month.

#### Other items

- Welcome new Accessibility Advisors! 2 staff have been hired, they will join us at April meeting.
- New sensory item check out/sensory room coming to Robert Crown: sensory room at Robert Crown is open.
- PD/CARE team toolkits: Sensory Tool Drive is underway at community centers. A volunteer event will be scheduled with individuals with disabilities in the community to organize and put toolkits together, will be distributed to PD and CARE team.
- New Accessible Rec programs: Chair One Fitness, social clubs for spring. Boccia team attended their first tournament in March!
- Next meeting: Thursday, April 24 at Levy Senior Center: a request was made to hold this meeting at 909 Davis - Manager Ruiz to look into this.

## 5. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

- A member discussed concerns related to Medicaid cuts, actions the Committee may be able to take, primary Medicaid facilities in Evanston, working together with the City's Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- A member suggested "Access Living" as a valuable resource for federal/local legal updates related to accessibility, interviews are being conducted on social media to share individuals' stories related to importance of Medicaid

- A member brought up concerns related to the future Evanston Northlight Theatre and accessibility: Manager Ruiz to contact theatre representatives
- A member inquired about the City installing a curb cut in front of AMC Theatre
- A member encouraged everyone to contact elected officials to communicate and provide support to those who would be affected by Medicaid/Medicare cuts
- A member spoke about the organization Autism Speaks and the dangerous agenda they promote, including support of an Autism genome project

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.