



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. Bocchia 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.