



**City of
Evanston™
MINUTES**
ADA Advisory Committee
Thursday, August 28, 2025 @ 3:00 PM
Evanston Public Library / Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Members present: Matt Dinerstein, Julia Pantoga, Jack Kleisner, Aby Karottu

Guests: Ronnie McCarron, Esther _____, Councilmember Claire Kelly, Mary Rosinski, Jane Hampson, Jeff Boarini, Stephen Hiatt-Leonard, John Kennedy, Alex Harrison, Patrick Hughes, Fred Wittenberg, Forrest Lavell, Miriam McAuley, Carlos Hranicka

Staff: Lauren Ruiz (Inclusion & Accessibility Division Manager), Chris Sous (Assistant City Engineer), Audrey Thompson (Parks & Recreation Director), Alice Eakes (Accessibility Advisor), Yazarri Gutierrez (Senior Services Coordinator)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The July 24 meeting minutes were approved by Jack Kleisner and Julia Pantoga.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **DASH & GO: Disabled Adults Social Hour & Gaming Opportunity.** Held at Prieto Community Center in collaboration with the Inclusion & Accessibility Division, peer-run, no cost, for adults who identify as disabled, ages 18 and up. Emphasis on socializing and networking to build relationships, meeting people outside of home/congregate living spaces, collaborative teambuilding to make games accessible, stimulate cognitive activity and have fun. To start, will meet twice a month. Contact Manager Ruiz for more details.
- A visitor shared information about a Wheelchair Wash being held at Hill Arboretum on Sept. 30, 5pm-8pm. Please join if you have a wheelchair that needs to be washed or if you are interested in volunteering.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Dog Beach ADA Access (see memos attached to meeting packet)

- Brief history
- GEI Consultants review

- Altura Solutions feedback
Most recent report from GEI Consultants, dated July 16, 2025, includes three new solutions:
 - 1A - modify existing dog beach north entrance with concrete ramped path (Altura made notes re: landing areas not being large enough)
 - 1B - providing a Mobi-mat running diagonally at 5% slope (staff does not recommend this, noted wave action, pedestrian use would bring this out of compliance easily, requires high level of maintenance)
 - 2 - Mobi-mats at south entrance of the boat launch (staff does not recommend this, noted proximity to boats, safety concerns of avoiding incoming trailers and cars to get to this entrance, Mobi-mats are best for temporary use, requires high level of maintenance to keep in compliance)
 - 3 - option that was recommended in original Smith Group proposal, modified by eliminating some items (boardwalk, dog wash area, lighting, electronic gate) and shortening revetment and ramp on south side of break wall

- Committee feedback
 - Attendees asked several questions related to the options and feedback presented
 - A member noted that maintenance and stability of concrete may be an area of concern, staff noted all measures possible would be taken to ensure any concrete materials used are resilient
 - It was noted that distance to the entrance of the dog beach would depend on potential additional accessible parking spaces created. As options are identified, location of accessible parking will be considered
 - It was noted by staff that alternatives would need to go back to the design phase
 - An attendee noted barriers in place with the City's current Mobi-mats due to sand build up and slopes that can change easily with use.
 - An attendee asked about future plans related to the entrance gate to ensure accessibility for individuals who are blind/have low vision.
 - Attendees inquired about individuals from the disability community being present at previous dog beach meetings, staff noted there were individuals with disabilities involved in early meetings.
 - An attendee noted that accessibility does not seem to consider the blind/low vision community but very focused on those with physical disabilities. Parking lots/boat launches are especially dangerous for those who cannot see, need to make sure safety is a priority for all.
 - A member expressed their opinion of the City needing to ban the use of Mobi-mats as permanent solutions, and the City should not approve upgrades of any facilities unless there are already plans and budget included for accessibility
 - Communication from the Committee Chair was shared which emphasized their opinion that "Mobi-mats are not an acceptable solution, that the City must pursue a permanent, compliant ramp option, and that further delays are unacceptable given the precise legal requirements and moral obligations at hand."

- Upcoming City Council meeting: date of presentation to City Council is to be determined, expected this fall and will be announced.

- An attendee noted that the stairs on the corner of Greenbay and Central (previously noted as extremely dangerous) are gone

5. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

See notes included above.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.