



**City of
Evanston™
MINUTES**
ADA Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 21, 2024 @ 3:00 PM
Evanston Public Library / Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Members present: Murphy Monroe, Tom Bobowski, Julia Pantoga, John Straus, Donna Stevens, Litrea Hunter, Matt Dinerstein, Jim Johnson, Mark Karlin

Guests: Joyce Swerzicki, Ronnie McCarron, Jack Kleisner, Fred Wittenberg, Miriam McAuley

Staff present: Lauren Ruiz (Inclusion & Accessibility Division Manager,) Audrey Thompson (Director of Parks and Recreation,) Amy Kellogg (Senior Services Division Manager,) Rachel Stams (Senior Services Advocate)

The meeting was called to order at 3:03pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February 22 minutes were approved by Jim Johnson and Matt Dinerstein.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A visitor shared an experience of a member who attempted to visit Double Clutch and was unable to get in due to there not being a doorbell and staff/other visitors not seeing him.
- A visitor shared that the next CTA ADA Advisory Committee meeting is on April 8.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Updates about previous inquiries and grievances

- Bus stop accessibility/CTA accessibility - Commission involvement and CTA visitor in April
 - Commission involvement: Director Thompson explained the importance of Committee calls for action to be presented to the Commission in order to be sanctioned
 - CTA Manager of ADA to visit in April: The Committee was asked to share any questions/topics for the speaker to review ahead of time.
 - FTA communication/complaint contact info: Contact information was provided as a resource which included CTA, RTA, and FTA organization summaries and

communication/complaint phone numbers and websites.

- Sound and public health: AMC Theatre in Evanston will be investigated by staff from Health and Human Services Dept.

Review of new inquiries/grievances

- Re-painting bike path along lakefront: Public Works Dept. reviewing this request
- Tactile buttons for fitness equipment: Buttons have been placed on 3 machines in the Levy Fitness Room along with small signs to identify adaptations to the community. Orientation to the new system available from Levy staff.
- Ramp request for Noyes main entrance: many items at Noyes included in ADA Transition Plan. Accessible entrance signs and doorbell recently placed.
- Grace Lutheran Church curb cuts: Depts reviewing this request.
- CURB transportation inquiry: CURB provides accessible transportation for riders getting picked up in the City. Will drive to suburbs but will not pick up in suburbs.

Training/education updates

- Disability Awareness Event was a success! Thank you!
- ADA Advisory Committee Work Plan check in: Manager Ruiz discussed increasing focus on ADA Transition Plan in upcoming quarter
- ReelAbilities: Member Julia and Manager Ruiz to have a phone meeting with a representative to discuss upcoming film showing in Evanston. Committee was encouraged to share any questions for the representative.
- Parks & Rec Dept new inclusion acknowledgement for vendors: all vendors working with the Dept. must acknowledge the Inclusion & Accessibility Policies, are provided with Inclusion resource and Gender Diversity resource

Committee membership

- E-flyer
- Posted at Evanston community centers, provided to Park School, Library, Hill Arboretum

Other items

- Speech assist project: Julia
- Inclusion & Accessibility Division updates
 - Upcoming programming: Adapted Boccia summer program and camps to be held at South End Community Center
 - Sensory rooms update: An additional sensory room will be placed at South End.
 - Disability Pride Parade in July: July 20 Evanston will attend with participants in Special Recreation programming, Committee members are encouraged to volunteer and attend also.
- City grant for sidewalk improvements
- Beach signage: Welcome signs at beaches include language that all are welcome and encouraging visitors to be mindful of everyone's unique abilities, Clark St. Beach and Lee St. Beach will have "no throw zones"
- Next meeting: Thursday, April 25

5. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

- Member Julia created a thank you note for the Mayor to share appreciation for moving City Hall to 909 Davis, recognizing accessibility and how important this is. Manager Ruiz to send a copy to the Committee for review and suggestions. Commission to

review after this.

- Member Julia created a strategy proposal for actions related to the Committee's plan to advocate for accessible transportation, specifically the L stop at Central with building of new stadium. Manager Ruiz to send a copy to the Committee for review and suggestions. Commission to review after this.
- A member commented about the difficulty attending concerts at the lagoon due to gravel pathway being inaccessible.
- A member suggested additional future trainings related to service animals and accessibility on public transportation.
- A member commented on difficulties with voting accessibility at a church. Will provide contact information to Manager Ruiz for communication in preparation of November elections.
- A member discussed the Hidden Disability Sunflower used at airports

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm.