



City of
Evanston™
MINUTES

ADA Advisory Committee
Thursday, April 25, 2024 @ 3:00 PM
Levy Senior Center / Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Members present: Murphy Monroe, Ann Keeton, Jack Kleisner, Julia Pantoga, Mark Karlin, Matt Dinerstein, Tom Bobowski

Guests: Carol Schreier, Nestor Gonzalez, Miriam McAuley, Lelia Purky, Fred Wittenberg, Cora James

Staff present: Lauren Ruiz (Inclusion & Accessibility Division Manager,) Rachel Stams (Senior Services Advocate,) Amy Kellogg (Senior Services Division Manager)

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 21 minutes were approved by Julia Pantoga and Jack Kleisner.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A visitor communicated frustrations with difficulty finding volunteering opportunities at Evanston's public schools
- A visitor communicated frustrations related to public transportation and traveling with her service dog

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Updates about previous inquiries/grievances

- Movie theatre volumes: the Health & Human Services Dept. has conducted an investigation and is currently reviewing how to best approach the matter.
- Re-painting bike path along lakefront: this work has been approved by the City and will be completed in June/July 2024.
- Bus shelter by Levy: Approval has been received to remove one bench from this shelter.
- Double Clutch entrance: Manager Ruiz met with the general manager and a Big Bell has been purchased, although not available until June. A regular doorbell will be purchased for the meantime.

Review of new inquiries/grievances

- AMC Theatre: equipment for individuals with low vision: Manager Ruiz spoke with the AMC manager - additional training for employees will be provided, it was encouraged to call ahead and speak with the manager to "reserve" the needed equipment and have it set aside to avoid any confusion.
- Emergency departments communication re: disabilities: Evanston has a Premise Alert Program for individuals with disabilities to log personal details about needs during an emergency, addresses are "flagged"
- Disability awareness: Library: this training took place 4/25 for all Library staff

Training/education updates

- CPI Verbal Intervention trainings: provided to Parks & Rec front office staff, facility managers, and supervisory team - teaches intervention for individuals demonstrating distress behaviors
- Aging Well Conference: May 17 - volunteers needed: Mark and Jack volunteered to sit at the ADA Advisory Committee table to provide resources and answer questions
- Hidden Disabilities Sunflower: this program is coming to the Parks & Rec Dept. and the City as a whole. More news to come.
- ADA Symposium - Manager Ruiz: attending June 9-12
- Abilities Expo: June 21-23, located in Schaumburg
- ReelAbilities public event: July 9 - volunteers needed: Julia, Tom, Murphy, Jack volunteered to review available films and narrow options down to top three for the film showing.

Committee membership

- Welcome new members: Ann and Jack
- Transition House, Albany Care

Other items

- Inclusion & Accessibility Division Updates
 - Accessible Recreation: name to officially change from "Special Recreation"
 - South End Community Center: work continuing inside for potential summer programming start
- RTA resources: "Travel Training" brochures available
- CTA meeting update/accessible transportation strategy proposal: Julia - to be discussed at upcoming Commission on Aging and Disabilities meeting
- Mayor thank you letter: Julia - to be discussed at upcoming Commission on Aging and Disabilities meeting
- Next meeting: May 23

5. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

- A member suggested adding a flashing light to doorbells at restaurants and businesses to increase accessibility/awareness when the environment is noisy
- A member shared her report from attendance at the CTA ADA Advisory Committee meeting in April
- Members provided suggestions for future guests to Committee/Commission meetings including CM Clare Kelly, Josina Morita, Evanston Round Table Reporters
- A member requested confirmation that 909 Davis is fully accessible, Manager Ruiz to confirm
- A member emphasized the importance of tracking the City's spending related to the ADA Transition Plan and accessibility projects

- A member shared his opinion that the disability community in Evanston remains the most marginalized community, emphasized the importance of disability in DEI efforts, also within schools and housing

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 PM.