



**ADA Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, December 19, 2024 @ 3:00 PM**  
Evanston Public Library/Zoom

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLE CALL**

Members present: Murphy Monroe, Julia Pantoga, Litrea Hunter, Jack Kleisner, Matt Dinerstein, Mark Karlin

Guests: John Kapetan, Ronnie McCarron, Susanna Bohacsik, Lisa Noble, Fred Wittenberg, Patrick Hughes, Carol Schreier, Nancy \_\_\_\_\_

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The November 21 minutes were approved by Litrea Hunter and Mark Karlin.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- An inquiry was made related to the future Parks & Recreation registration/website accessibility improvements: will individuals who use financial assistance be able to register online with the new system? Manager Ruiz to look into this; may depend on the company chosen for services.

**4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Updates about previous inquiries/grievances:

- Pooch Park accessible parking: a van accessible parking space was placed by City and Skokie Park District.
- Sidewalk repair requests: all requests for sidewalk repairs are now going through 311 for streamlining purposes
- Centennial Park accessible picnic pads/furniture: spaces have been measured and prepared to permanently place furniture (tables, grill, charcoal disposal). New signs to come for reservation purposes.
- Pedestrian barriers: working with Public Works to determine how to address several

barriers shared.

Review of new inquiries/grievances:

- Sidewalk repair: 1121 Noyes: completed with asphalt filling and added to priority list for Sidewalk Improvement Program, in addition to areas of concern along Main Street.
- Parks & Rec catalog and registration procedures: these are not accessible for individuals using screen readers. Website working group meeting every other week. Current step: City team currently completing interviews after RFP. Discussing how to begin training staff. Website accessibility deadline for Evanston: April 2026, hoping to be compliant far before this date. Accommodations provided in the meantime, contact ADA Coordinator/311.

Other items:

- Committee was asked to review Envision Evanston 2045 and bring feedback to January meeting.
- ADA Advisory Committee Work Plan Review: overall goals and objectives achieved, will make adjustments for 2025/26 Plan
- Next meeting: January 23, 2024 at Evanston Public Library/Zoom

## 5. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

- A member shared concerns related to a barrier of contacting the City and needing to press certain numbers when he is unable to see numbers on his phone, recommended voice commands
- Concerns over the volume of previews and ads at movie theatres was discussed. No progress made on this with Health & Human Services Dept. last year, visitors encouraged to request volume to be turned down.
- Members had suggestions related to the new ADA Advisory Committee Work Plan:
  - The Committee should strive to be more responsive to City Council meetings
  - A request was made for emails to be sent to the Committee when issues concerning accessibility are on the agenda for City Council meetings
  - The Committee should monitor the commitments that the City has made to updating accessibility in buildings especially and what the City is legally obligated to do.
  - Create a priority list for facilities specifically.
- A member confirmed that the Commission will be providing feedback to the Mayor about Envision Evanston 2045. Encouraged the Committee to discuss and share suggestions as well. Manager Ruiz to resend October meeting minutes when the Plan was initially discussed in the Committee as well as a link for review of other resources.
- A member emphasized that Envision Evanston 2045 is a very fluid document, has a broad scope. Hasn't been updated for decades and a lot of discussion is needed.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.