

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Community Development Conference Room, 8th Floor City Hall
Thursday, March 24, 2011
2:00 P.M.

The City Accessibility Advisory Committee met at the above place and date. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 P.M. The following committee members and staff answered roll call:

Martin Wagner	Fred Gromand
Billie Brown	Manny Razo
Mary Castillo	William Bennett

The following visitors were present:

John Eger	Mark Steele
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The following members and staff were not present:

Rafael Hernando	Karen Pharr
Olivia Chavez	Cynthia Osborn
Rene Pokrzywinski	Alejandro Campos
Sergio Reyes	Tony Bustillos

AGENDA

- I. WELCOME / ROLL CALL
- II. CALL TO THE PUBLIC – PUBLIC COMMENT
This time is reserved for members of the public who would like to address the City Accessibility Advisory Committee on any items that are not on the City Accessibility Advisory Committee Agenda and that are within the jurisdiction of the City Accessibility Advisory Committee. No action shall be taken.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of November 18, 2010, and December 16, 2010.
- IV. DISCUSSION AND ACTION
 - A. Update on Analysis of Impediments for Fair Housing.
 - B. Update on Easter Seals Project Action Accessibility Planning
Will Sun Metro continue to be the lead agency?
 - C. Presentation on the Interactive Voice Response System
 - D. Presentation on the Google Trip Planner
 - E. Curb Ramp on Request Program
 - F. Audible Pedestrian Signal Program
 - G. Subcommittee reports for Goals and Objectives
Employment of People with Disabilities
Sensitivity Training
Barrier Free Construction
 - H. Formal complaints regarding ADA/Accessibility Compliance
 - I. Plan Reviews
 - J. Next Meeting Agenda, Date, and Location (4-28-2011)
- V. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- VI. ADJOURNMENT

Item 1. Welcome/Roll Call
Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Item 2. Call to the Public – Public Comments
Comments were made by Mark Steele.

Item 3. Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2010, and December 16, 2010.
The minutes are not done and will be presented next month.

Item 4. Discussion and Action

- A. Update on analysis of impediments for Fair Housing.
Comments were made by William Bennett and Mary Castillo
No action was taken on this item.
- B. Update on Easter Seals Project Action Accessibility Planning
Will Sun Metro continue to be the lead agency?
Comments were made by William Bennett, Mary Castillo, and Billie Brown.
No action was taken on this item and it will be taken off the agenda unless something important occurs.
- C. Presentation on Interactive Voice Response System
Comments were made by William Bennett, Mark Steele, Martin Wagner, Mary Castillo, Billie Brown, and John Eger.
No action was taken on this item and it will be taken off the agenda unless something important occurs.
- D. Presentation on Google Trip Planner
Comments were made by William Bennett, Mary Castillo, John Eger, and Mark Steele.
No action was taken on this item and it will be taken off the agenda unless something important occurs.
- E. Curb Ramp on Request Program.
Comments were made by William Bennett, Mary Castillo, and Billie Brown.
No action was taken on this item.
- F. Audible Pedestrian Signal Program
Comments were made by William Bennett, John Eger, Fred Gromand, Martin Wagner, John Eger, Mark Steele, and Mary Castillo.
No action was taken on this item.
- G. Subcommittee reports for Goals and Objectives
 - Employment of People with Disabilities
Comments were made by Mary Castillo, William Bennett, John Eger, Martin Wagner, Manny Razo, Billie Brown, and Fred Gromand.
No action was taken on this item.
 - Sensitivity Training
Comments were made by William Bennett.
No action was taken on this item.
 - Barrier Free Construction
Comments were made by Mary Castillo and William Bennett.
No action was taken on this item.
- H. Formal complaints regarding ADA/Accessibility Compliance
Comments were made by William Bennett.
No action was taken on this item.
- I. Plan Reviews
Comments were made by William Bennett.
No action was taken on this item.
- J. Next Meeting Agenda, Date, and Location (4-28-2011)

Item 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements were made by John Eger, William Bennett,

Item 6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Billie Brown, seconded by Fred Gromand, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Martin Wagner, Fred Gromand, Billie Brown, Manny Razo, Mary Castillo

Nays: None

Abstain: None

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Item 1. Welcome/Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Item 2. Call to the Public – Public Comments

There was one of the new BRT buses parked outside.

The apartment complex where Mark Steele lives handed out papers about fair housing.

Item 3. Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2010, and December 16, 2010.

The minutes are not done and will be presented next meeting.

Item 4. Discussion and Action

A. Update on Analysis of Impediments for Fair Housing.

The analysis of impediments is complete. There is going to be a Legislative Review Committee (LRC) meeting to discuss the analysis. The analysis of impediments can be found on the City's web site, in Community Development, in the City Library's, at UTEP, and at all of the Community College branches. The LRC is going to be on Thursday, April 7, 2011, at one p.m. in City Council Chambers. The apartment complex that has handed out a flier seems to be trying to get input to provide accommodations. Did the analysis justify the five percent? The analysis did not determine if the five percent of accessible units was enough or not. They recommended that an independent survey be done to try to determine the percentage need for apartments. There has been a complaint filed with HUD because of the reduction. There has also been some talk of just going back to the five percent with the hope that the complaint will be dismissed. The impediments that were discussed were found to be basically the same as those that were being discussed for the last eight years or so.

No action was taken on this item.

B. Update on Easter Seals Project Action Accessibility Planning

Will Sun Metro continue to be the lead agency?

This has been discussed informally over the last two months. Sun Metro is going to continue to be the lead agency on the Easter Seals Project Action Accessibility Planning. There have been several meetings. The pathways group met yesterday at which time one of the individuals at Sun Metro said that Easter Seals should never have come here because they were not needed and Sun Metro is much further ahead than what Project Action thinks. All of the items that are being discussed pathways are being put in by the thousands. Sun Metro is putting 3 to 4 million dollars a year on bus stops, the landings, curb ramps and sidewalks to get to the bus stop. They are setting things set up for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). They are spending about a million dollars for each bus. They are going to have two corridors starting up. The Mesa Downtown Corridor and the Alameda Corridor are the corridors. TxDot has

requested that the Alameda Corridor be pushed up by about six months. Within the next year there should be two rapid transit corridors. Another item that was discussed, was that everything that is going in being constructed under smart growth standards. This means that there will be six to eight foot sidewalks, trees, landscaping, lighting, in order to make the city more walkable and pedestrian friendly. At the next Easter Seals Coalition meeting Sun Metro is going to give a presentation on all that is going on.

No action was taken on this item and it will be taken off the agenda unless something important occurs.

C. Presentation on Interactive Voice Response System

This item has been informally talked about the last two or three meetings. Basically what it is, a person will be able to call in get or request a ride over the telephone, and then the person will be contacted back. Instead of dealing with a person all of the time the caller will be dealing with a computer, which should help speed all of the reservation information up. It is thought that it recognizes human voice. For example you call and it asks a question and requests an answer on a number scale. One is for one choice, two for another, and on. It will recognize the rider number for example. The system is not completely up and running. John Eger is one of the trial participants. But they are still working out the bugs. Sun Metro anticipates that it will be completely up and running within the next three to six months and will be working fine. The system works fine in other places, so they just have to mess with the program. The system will work with any phone so a person would use the number where he will be for the call from the system to verify the pickup time. What needs to be realized is this is “not just my system” or a taxi. It is public transportation. It is not just for me, it is for the public. People do not realize that para-transit is not just their ride, it is for everyone that needs to use the service. That is something that a lot of users forget. Is there still a 15 minute window? It is 15 minutes before or 15 minutes after, which is actually a 30 minute window. But if an individual happens to finish an appointment early, the person can call and if there is a vehicle available Sun Metro will send it early. This is above and beyond the ADA. How long will they wait outside for the individual? It is whatever Sun Metro’s policy is, but they have gotten more proactive and are having the dispatcher call. The goal is to set the time and when the IVR goes off an individual will have exactly 10 minutes will be coming. A person can schedule a trip up to seven days in advance. You can try to schedule a trip the day before, but there may not be a bus available.

No action was taken on this item, and it will be removed from the agenda unless something important occurs.

D. Presentation on Google Trip Planner

This item was also informally talked about for the last meetings. Basically an individual can go to the Sun Metro web site, go to the Google Trip Planner Icon, enter where a person is and where that person wants to go and it will tell you where the bus can be caught. It is an application and that can be down loaded to a smart phone. It should make things easier for individuals wanting to use fixed route. The IVR is for para-transit.

No action was taken on this item, and it will be removed from the agenda unless something important occurs.

E. Curb Ramp on Request Program.

The program is complete for this year. The Street Department put in some extra curb ramps and when they finally got to the accounting they found that they had over spent about \$11,000. Community Development reimbursed the Street Department for the extra money. Instead of \$130,000 about \$141,000 was spent on actual construction. That actually makes up for last year a little, where there were not enough ramps on the list, and about \$20,000 was returned, and for the 35th year about \$250,000 had been returned. The reason is that in the past we would start down the list and when more requests came in we would just continue installation until the money was spent. Now HUD is requiring that the entire list be presented in advance of construction. So when I applied this year I had about 900 ramps on the list. So there should be enough to expend all the money. When new subdivisions are put in the developer is required to show the ramps on the subdivision plan and to install the ramp when the construction on the lot occurs. This has been required for the last five or six years. The building inspectors inspect the ramps to ensure that they are constructed properly. The city

does not put the curb ramps or sidewalks in. The developer is required to install the ramps. The sidewalks are not required to be installed until the lot is developed. It is being looked at to require the curb ramp to be installed when the subdivision is put in and then the individual that builds on the lot will only have to install the sidewalk. The new application was turned in and \$250,000.00 is being asked for. Matching funds are not required. If there is an urgent need curb ramps can be installed using Capitol Improvement Program funds. For the next year the City Manager has allocated money for sidewalk gaps and curb ramps. It is believed that six million dollars was allocated. It was calculated that about 19 million was needed to install sidewalks.

No action was taken on this item.

F. Audible Pedestrian Signal Program

The preliminary plans were received for this years signals. Comments will be provided to the designer and he will revise and add additional information and submit the pre-final drawings. After that the final drawings will be submitted. There are three intersections that will get audible signals. They are Mesa and Cincinnati, Montwood and Yarbrough, and Paisano and Val Verde. Montwood and Yarbrough is being designed in house. The other intersections are being designed by Martinez Engineering. After May the units will be purchased from the place that we have gotten previous units. They will be on a buy board contract and the city will be able to go to them without having to go out for bid. When the audible signal is activated it tells you which street to cross. Next year \$250,000.00 has been requested to install additional units. There are seven or eight intersections are on the list.

No action was taken on this item.

G. Subcommittee reports for Goals and Objectives

Employment of People with Disabilities

The only thing on this is that the work force lost funding for the youth program this summer. The only youth that will be placed will be coming out of DARS. There will be about 100 youth participating in the program. The city has had youth coming in to help out in the map room. They come in two at a time with a coach. They have been doing well. Two just left and the coach said that new students would be in the office in two to three weeks. They stay three to four months. They are being used in engineering and possibly other departments. President Obama has created a Section A program where individuals with disabilities can be hired. It is an executive order and an individual is automatically placed in a government position. The person is locked into that position, and protected forever. If that person wanted to move up, he would have to ask to be moved off the list, but he would not be protected any longer. The Obama staff said it is supposed to go through the rehab departments throughout the country. Kevin Bowes with the Texas Workforce Commission, took part in the call to President Obama's staff. It is the Federal Rehab departments not the state departments. The executive order came about because of the soldiers coming back that had become disabled because of the war. The difference is that the individuals already had a trained skill before their disability. The hard part is that if a person does not come with a skill, they cannot expect to be hired if disabled or not. There must be someone with the workforce that can get a person on the job training. The person has to be qualified. Anyone that is disabled can apply for the Section A positions. In order to qualify a person would have to meet the job requirements for the position whether disabled or not. Companies like Ready One or Pride Industries are not part of the federal government. They are private companies that receive federal funding. The use of the funding required that 75% of the individuals hired by the company had to have a significant disability. At this time only youths are being put to work at the city to

provide training. There are no adults being hired through the summer youth program.

No action was taken on this item.

Sensitivity Training

The training is being changed because the ADA is changing and some items will be added. There is not anything else to say about this item at this time.

No action was taken on this item.

Barrier Free Construction

There has been some talk of going back to five percent on the apartments. After there is open discussion on the analysis of impediments, a determination will be made. Permits for apartments are still being requested. There have not been that many requests for new apartment construction. There was never a great increase on permits for apartments since the number of accessible units was decreased to three percent. All ground floor units have to be accessible.

No action was taken on this item.

H. Formal complaints regarding ADA/Accessibility Compliance

There have not been any formal complaints.

No action was taken on this item.

I. Plan Reviews

There have been a bunch of plans for review including some for community development, parks, building renovations.

No action was taken on this item.

J. Next Meeting Agenda, Date, and Location (4-28-2011)

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jose Rodriguez is coming into town and will be at Franklin High School on Saturday from 12:00 to 2:00 in the gym. Dee Margo will also be present.

Changes to the ADA were announced.

Announcements about assistive technology centers were given.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.