

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Engineering Conference Room, 4th Floor City Hall

Thursday, October 28, 2010

2:00 P.M.

The City Accessibility Advisory Committee met at the above place and date. The meeting was called to order at 2:06 P.M. The following committee members and staff answered roll call:

Martin Wagner	Billie Brown
Manny Razo	Mary Castillo
Cynthia Osborn	William Bennett
Jim Frazer	

The following visitors were present:

John Eger	Frank Lozano
Mark Steele	Robin Roberts

The following members and staff were not present:

Rafael Hernando	Karen Pharr
Olivia Chavez	Fred Gromand
Martin Walton	Alejandro Campos
Sergio Reyes	

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 September 23, 2010.
- IV. DISCUSSION AND ACTION
 - A. Update on Analysis of Impediments for Fair Housing.
 - B. Easter Seals Project Action – Sun Metro
 - C. Curb Ramp on Request Program
 - D. Audible Pedestrian Signal Program
 - E. Subcommittee reports for Goals and Objectives
 - Employment of People with Disabilities
 - Sensitivity Training
 - Barrier Free Construction
 - F. Formal complaints regarding ADA/Accessibility Compliance
 - G. Plan Reviews
 - H. Next Meeting Agenda, Date, and Location (11-18-2010)
- 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 Comment

There was no public comment.

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of September 23, 2010.

Comments were made by William Bennett.

A motion was made by Mary Castillo, seconded by Billie Brown, and unanimously approved to approve the minutes for September 23, 2010.

AYES: Martin Wagner, Billie Brown, Manny Razo, and Mary Castillo.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

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. Easter Seals Project Action - Sun Metro

Comments were made by William Bennett, Robin Roberts, John Eger, Mary Castillo, Frank Lozano, and Cynthia Osborn.

No action was taken on this item.

C. Curb Ramp on Request Program.

Comments were made by William Bennett, Mary Castillo, Billie Brown, and Frank Lozano.

No action was taken on this item.

C. Subcommittee reports for Goals and Objectives

Employment of People with Disabilities

Comments were made by William Bennett, Mary Castillo, and Jim Fraser.

A motion was made by Mary Castillo, seconded by Billie Brown, and unanimously approved to submit a letter to Linda Thomas recommending that a volunteer program be established to assist individuals with disabilities obtain job experience.

AYES: Martin Wagner, Billie Brown, Manny Razo, and Mary Castillo.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

Sensitivity Training

Comments were made by William Bennett, John Eger, and Robin Roberts..

No action was taken on this item.

Barrier Free Construction

Comments were made by William Bennett, Frank Lozano, Mary Castillo, Billie Brown, John Eger, Mark Steele, Martin Wagner, and Jim Frazer,

No action was taken on this item.

F. Formal complaints regarding ADA/Accessibility Compliance

Comments were made by William Bennett and Mary Castillo.

G. Plan Reviews

Comments were made by William Bennett.

H. Next Meeting Agenda, Date, and Location (10-28-2010)

The next meeting will be on October 28, 2010, in the 4th floor conference room.

Item 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements were made by Jim Fraser and Bill Bennett.

Item 6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mary Castillo, seconded by Manny Razo, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

AYES: Martin Wagner, Billie Brown, Manny Razo, and 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 Comment

There was no public comment.

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of September 23, 2010.

The minutes were sent out by e-mail with the agenda. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to approve the Minutes of September 23, 2010.

Item 4. Discussion and Action

A. Update on Analysis of Impediments for Fair Housing.

The work is still being done. There is supposed to give a presentation to the Fair Housing Task Force in November. The people who are doing the Analysis of Impediments from Arizona will be giving the presentation. They have not given any information on the impediments yet. They had a final forum last Monday. They are conducting their research by interviewing individuals, the fair housing officer, from the disabled community, the builders, and developers. They visited at Volar. They passed out surveys to try to determine what forms of discrimination has been occurring. They will put the information together and that will end up being the Analysis of Impediments. It is not know if they will make suggestions on how to overcome the impediments or correct the impediments. They will be presenting the information to the Fair Housing Task Force. The lady doing the analysis was here last week at the Volar Conference and got some survey's on impediments there. It is not known what they are finding, but it will ultimately be found out.

No action was taken on this item.

B. Easter Seals Project Action – Sun Metro

This item was placed on the agenda to start getting preliminary information out to the members here and also to inform you about the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) that should be handling a lot of this stuff. The CAC handles the whole gamut, but this is more of a disability type issue. Annually Easter Seals puts out a bid project that allows Easter Seals to come into a community and help them work on accessibility, primarily for public transit accessibility. This entity applied through Sun Metro and Sun Metro was one of the twelve recipients to address the issue of writing an accessibility plan for public transit. In July there was a forum for two days that was paid for by Easter Seals, where interested parties were gathered, many of the people that are at this meeting, Volar, the Center for Independent Living, the coordinated regional transportation planning which covers six counties in this area, Sun Metro, Sun Metro Lift, Sun Metro Planning. A broad representation of the community was present. Two days were spent deciding what the priorities for accessible transportation were. They were pathways issues and how people can get to and from the bus stop. The intent was to make more people use the fixed route. Another was information about how to use fixed route, for example the signage, and how to make sure that the posts are where they are supposed to be and the whole transition plan issues. Also discussed was the issue of the various departments that need to be worked with in changing policies for the city about ramps, sidewalks, and the designs. All of these were important issues that this committee discusses regularly. The other issue was finding dollars to improve the system, aggressively going after grants. The third area that was covered was expanding hours of operation. Preliminary work was done by the groups, but the idea is that it will not be complete in two days and it will not happen with just the core group of people that were there. More partners are going to have to be brought to the table. The commitment was that there would be monthly meetings and more often until the plan is completed. A whole quarter has gone by and nothing has occurred. It is time to revisit the issues and get the program moving again. This is the second time that the city has participated with Easter Seals Project Action. The first time a team of individuals traveled to Washington for the training. It seems that it was more economical to have the trainers go to the community to get the systems change going at the grass roots level. Easter Seals is both an advocate and a platform for systems change. They are a change agent because they have the experience and they are also

an advocate at the national level. They are recognized in all parts of public transit. The lift director, Rene Pokrzywinski, has been contacted and will be at the next meeting. She is behind systems change and customer service above and beyond what is required under the ADA. Other issues with Sun Metro were discussed. Easter Seals deals with transit systems and systems changes in transit operations. The meeting will take place before the November meeting.

No action was taken on this item.

C. Curb Ramp on Request Program.

The new parkway structure contract was awarded and the notice to proceed will be issued around the first of October. Curb ramps are being installed on the east side of town. One of the ARRA funded ramps has been installed. There are about 12 more ramps to be installed with ARRA funding and the left over money will be returned to CD to be reprogrammed. Next years application is being worked on. Petitions will be sent out in the next few weeks to obtain support for the program. The ad will be run soon so that we can get more corners on the list. All of the proposed corners have to be submitted at the time of application, and then the intersection cannot have any work done on it so that CD funding can be used to put the ramps in. If the corner is on the list and streets goes to resurface, they will need to leave the curb ramps for the program to install. Let the ADA Coordinator know where ramps need to be installed. Under state law it is still a requirement to install truncated domes. The new ADA new accessibility guidelines do not require truncated domes at curb ramps. It is still a requirement to have truncated domes at train platforms and bus loading platforms. There will be a hearing in November to start discussing the changes that will be made to state law. The Texas Accessibility Standards can have higher requirements, but cannot be less than the new ADA. Both laws will have to be complied with. Our ordinance requires truncated domes on curb ramps, that would still have to be complied with, unless it is amended. Pellicano still has issues of poles blocking the ramps. It will be inspected to determine what can be done. It is very important to call for intersections that do not have curb ramps. The curb ramps on the corner of Hawkins and Viscount is going to be one of the first intersections done under the span wire program and is to start soon. The curb ramps at the driveways going to the mall are on this years schedule of curb ramps to be done. The ARRA funding and 35th year CDBG funding is going to be used first and then this years funding will be addressed. There is about \$147,000 for construction this year. What has been indicated, for next year's applications, is that it would be better to request more money for audible pedestrian signals and reduce the amount requested for curb ramps because of the need to submit the exact intersections that will need to have ramps installed. On the existing list, there are about 600 intersections, but some of them may already have ramps. Before turning in the application the intersections will be reviewed using the city's GIS system. Typically if a request is on a Sun Metro route, it will be referred to them. They have about a million dollars this year for curb ramps, bus stops, and sidewalks to the bus stop. The applications for the curb ramp program will need to be turned in by December 16, 2010, which is almost a month earlier than last year.

No action was taken on this item.

C. Subcommittee reports for Goals and Objectives

Employment of People with Disabilities

There are a lot of individuals that do not have a lot of work experience. Would the city be able to set up training so that the individuals could obtain experience? The city does use interns that are not paid. There may be a volunteer program. It can be recommended to Human Resources that a volunteer program be set up. Linda

Thomas will be contacted to see what would need to be done. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to send a letter to Linda Thomas recommending a training program for individuals with disabilities.

Sensitivity Training

Some training has been done on the changes to the ADA. Rene Pokrzywinski has for some additional training, not so much sensitivity training, that will help enforce what she is trying to get implemented with the lift. It would be for everyone from dispatchers, call takers to the Lift drivers. John Eger is going to help put the training together when he has time. The sensitivity training program will be presented to employees. All the providers in this area have been to TxDOT to get PASS training. They train the trainers. PASS is Passenger Safety and Sensitivity. The trainers can train drivers and other staff. There are trainers in this region that will set up a protocol so that the staff can be trained.

No action was taken on this item.

Barrier Free Construction

Barrier Free Construction has five items, a no step entry, lowered and raised switches and outlets, wider hall ways, wider doors, usable bathrooms and kitchens, and blocking behind the walls for installation of grab bars when needed. The state of California has laws that if more than 20 or more lots, five percent or one out of twenty houses must be constructed using barrier construction. Individual cities in California have also written their own ordinances to cover the state law and some have made them more restrictive. In the state of Texas, if federal or state funds are used to build a house, the house is required to be barrier free. The new ADA also requires that any residential housing offered for sale to individuals, residential housing programs provided by Title II entities, which is state and local governments, are covered by the ADA. For the first time the final rule establishes design requirements for residential dwelling units built by or on behalf of public entities, with the intent that the units will be sold to individual owners. The design requirements are set forth in the 2010 standards. The units have to be accessible. Pima County, Arizona has an ordinance that all housing has to be visitable. There are a number of places that have ordinances and laws that require visitability. A lady, a realtor, at the Volar conference, is interested in the having the builders be more aware of visitable housing. She receives requests all the time from individuals that want visitable housing. It is time to start having discussions with the developers again to consider constructing housing with the barrier free features. Higher priced housing is already being constructed with wider halls and larger bathrooms and bedrooms. Winton homes builds barrier free homes. Tropicana Homes also builds barrier free homes because they use federal funding. Several other individual builders will build barrier free when requested. The developers that are having a problem with barrier free construction, are the ones that uses the same set of plans to build "cookie cutter" houses and they would have to change their plans. New construction codes already require at least one entry door to be 36 inches wide and 36 inch wide hallways. The only thing left is the height of the outlets and switches, the no step entry, and backing in the walls in the bathroom. What is not required is that they use 36 inch doors inside the houses. Atlanta was one of the places that started pushing barrier free construction through Concrete Change. In California what is being done for multiple level house is there is to have at least one accessible bedroom and bath on the lower floor.

No action was taken on this item.

D Formal complaints regarding ADA/Accessibility Compliance

There have not been any formal complaints. There have been some complaints that must be taken care of by independent agencies.

G. Plan Reviews

There have been six different sets of plans, three parks, two street and drainage projects, and one other municipal project. The projects have been submitted to Registered Accessibility Specialists for Texas Accessibility Standards review. They are coming back with minimal comments.

H. Next Meeting Agenda, Date, and Location (11-18-2010)

The next meeting will be on November 18, 2010.

Item 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A summary of changes in the adoption of the 2010 ADA standards for accessible design is available in PDF format on the Access Board Site. The fact sheet tells the highlights of the ADA final rule is available on the DOJ ADA homepage. The effective date of the changes is six months after the date of publication which is March 15, 2011. The compliance date for new construction will be 18 months after publication or March 15, 2012. Between the time individuals can build to either the 1991 standards or the 2010 standards. All alterations or new construction after March 15, 2012 will have to be done in compliance with the new rules. Ticketing for accessible seating and release of accessible seating is discussed and accommodation for individuals that acquired inaccessible seating. A big change is that the rule defines "service animals" is a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Other animals whether wild or domestic do not qualify as service animals. Dogs that are not trained to perform tasks that mitigate the effects of a disability, including dogs that are used purely for emotional support, are not service animals. The rule does permit the use of trained miniature horses as alternatives to dogs, subject to certain limitations. No more snakes, cats, dog in a purse, etc. are considered service animals. Wheel chairs and other power driven mobility devices can include Segway's if the person chooses it as the mobility device of preference. Effective communication includes the use of video remote interpreting for communication. Reservations made by places of lodging now have established requirements for making the reservations and choice of accessible rooms. Timeshares and condominium units are covered by Title III are required to be accessible. Residential housing offered for sale to individual owners by Title II entities are covered by the ADA and has design standards established for the dwelling units. The final rule also requires that three percent of newly constructed or altered cells must be accessible in detention and correctional facilities.

Item 6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 p.m.