

Minutes
ADA Subcommittee of the
Social Services Commission
Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Commissioners present: Michelle Reardon
Community members present: Lena Contreras, George Moore (Chair)
Guest Present: Ann Evans
Staff present: Cameron Gibbs, Sharon Nielson, Willa Pettygrove, Mark Wood

I. Call to Order; Approve Agenda

Chair George Moore called the meeting to order at 3:35 in the Community Conference Room. The subcommittee approved the agenda with the additions of a staff report on audible pedestrian system (APS) project and status of the Veterans Memorial Theater project.

Two items suggested for future agendas: Jamie Elliot to discuss Alternative and Inclusive Recreation programs offered by the City's Parks and Community Services Department, and discussion of the role of City ADA coordinator.

II. Minutes

Minutes of the July 6, 2005 meeting were approved as written.

III. Commissioner and Staff Reports

Michelle Reardon reported that she will be serving as liaison to the Social Services Commission when Kevin Klein cannot attend. She discussed the impact of housing affordability on housing access. There has been a change in the status of the County homeless coordinator and the City's role in funding that position.

Willa Pettygrove reported on attending the Sidewalk Symposium sponsored by Walk Sacramento.

IV. Public Comment

Ann Evans reported on the difficulty of finding housing that is affordable and accessible.

V. Old Business

Cameron Gibbs reported that the annual concrete contract is completed. This included pads for bus stops at Fifth and G and Fifth and Russell. The contractor

selected for the Veterans Memorial Theater expansion has declared bankruptcy, so that project will be rebid in December, 2005. The APS equipment has been ordered and should be shipped the week of September 26.

Willa Pettygrove reviewed a proposed outline of visitable housing characteristics, based on a project approved by the County of Yolo for Esparto. The subcommittee made changes. The requirements for visitability would include

1. Accessible path of travel from driveway to accessible entry door with zero threshold entry. Zero threshold at at least one entry door
2. Minimum 32" clear opening to one first floor bathroom
3. Rocker light switches throughout
4. Grab bar backing in first floor bathroom
5. Minimum 32" clear opening to one first floor bedroom
6. Back lit doorbell

Additional, with cost to be paid by the homebuyer:

- Grab bars in first floor bathroom
- Single action front door hardware and/or lever action hardware at its interior

Mark Wood suggested some technical improvements to the language. Willa will follow up with him. The subcommittee discussed what housing types would be included in the requirements and concluded that the requirements should apply to all single family homes, and to multifamily housing. Exemptions would be for second floor multifamily units not served by an elevator, and for infill development in the City's core area. The subcommittee directed Willa to present the requirements to the Social Services Commission at its meeting on September 19.

The subcommittee reviewed two video presentations on guide dog safety provided by Lena Contreras. One covered issues specific to service animals in restaurants, and the other was more comprehensive. The subcommittee discussed ways to present and promote this information. Willa will be contacting the Davis Police Department regarding co-sponsorship of a series of public workshops. These could be offered at pet supply stores, dog training classes, and on the UCD campus. The videos could be shown on Davis Community Television. Willa stated that she also intends to reformat some of the print materials produced by Guide Dogs for the Blind into a brochure to distribute at the workshops.

VI. New Business

George Moore and Lena reported that Anne Brunette had given them a tour of the Varsity Theater to consider needed access improvements. Willa was also present for the tour. The specific items identified for improvement are

- Finding an alternative method to sell tickets. The existing historic ticket window will stay and is not acceptable for some patrons.

- Developing integrated seating. At present, the theater has accessible/companion seating only in the rear area of the theater. The slope of the floor is too steep to meet ADA requirements. It may be possible to create an alternate entry to create accessible seating in the front of the theater, which is level.
- Restrooms. Mark Wood will be reviewing the existing restrooms, which have been upgraded to meet ADA requirements but may need some additional work.
- Concession area. The new contractors propose to convert the former adjacent office to sell gelato and other treats. There will be access to the concession area from the theater during shows and during regular hours from an exterior entrance. Both will need to meet ADA/Title 24.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.