

City of Santa Rosa Community Advisory Committee

Minutes of November 1, 2006 ADA Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Finley Community Center—Cypress Room

Community Advisory Committee Members present:

Larry Henzerling, Community Resources for Independence

Margo Merck, Community Housing Development Corporation of Santa Rosa

Jennifer Frazer, Earle Baum Center of the Blind, Inc.

Shirlee Zane, Council on Aging

David Benson, Becoming Independent

City Staff Members present:

Lynne Margolies, Risk Management

Mardell Morrison, Risk Management

Ed Buonaccorsi, General Services Administrator

Paul Hess, Emergency Preparedness

Steve Dittmer, Public Works

Mike Ivory, Transit & Parking

Jason Nutt, Public Works

Mirella Stevens, Risk Management

Greg Scoles, City Manager's Office

Bill Shubin, Fire Department

James Zboralske, Police Department

Rich Hovden, Recreation & Parks

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. TRANSITION PLAN OVERVIEW

- Mardell Morrison explained that a demo of a Hearing Amplification Loop system is being demonstrated during the meeting. The City is looking into purchasing this type of system for use in City Council Chamber and some of the other public meeting rooms. The system would enable citizens with hearing aids to tune those aids into the amplification system for enhanced clarity.

3. TAKING BACK THE STREETS EVENT

- Shirlee Zane who gave us an update on Taking Back the Streets event on October 3, 2006. There was a great response of 27 partners and 200 attendees, including members of the disabled community. The event made people more aware of sidewalk and other pedestrian traffic patterns challenges that are around the City. Shirlee will be working with on having an event next year during the spring on a Saturday in the hopes of having an even larger turn out and is asking for volunteers to put on the next event.

4. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Public Works:

- Steve Dittmer gave an update on the ADA Sidewalk Survey. The City is using a new high-tech system to record sidewalk statistics for future planning. Public Works surveyed from 5th on the north, Highway 101 on the West, Brookwood on the east, and Highway 12 or Sonoma Avenue on the South, also Mendocino to SRJC and Sonoma Avenue out to Farmers for a total

of approximately 21 miles of sidewalks. They are looking for items that don't meet current ADA criteria or have been damaged by settlement or tree growth. They have turned in repair requests at the most damaged or critical areas.

Public Comments:

- Citizen would like to see the grade level of Cleveland neighborhood sidewalks be surveyed and prioritized as it feels like her mobility device is going to roll over when she travels in this area. *City Response:* The priority standards that we are using to determine which sites to survey addresses necessary public services and were previously established by this committee. Any specific problem areas can be addressed by filing a request for barrier removal with the ADA Coordinator. The next meeting will have time allocated to sidewalk issues and prioritization. Web site has current 100 identified areas that need curb ramps and Steve will get sidewalk survey summary on web as well.
- Citizens inquired on the length of time that it would take for a tree limb and/or other complaints to be addressed. *City Response:* The City has 48 hrs to acknowledge receiving an accommodation/barrier removal request. Public Works has a hotline number available to respond to pot holes and immediate sidewalk complaints and will respond as soon as possible. Curb ramps must be analyzed for impact, cost and the ability to create them and often must be addressed through the budget process and long range planning.
- Shirlee has asked Mardell to send out information to the Sonoma Senior as well as to CRI and Earl Baum Center on how to get access of the complaint process, so it can be sent out to the public.

Transit:

- Mike Ivory announced that since our last meeting there has been some changes to the Paratransit system. One of those changes is the installation of a new phone system that will record all scheduling phone calls. Also, this month they will be installing Trapeze, a scheduling software package. The system will assign a number to an individual for trip pick-up, which can then be monitored. The Department has also been looking into a GPS system to monitor the location of buses and give more accurate arrival times. Paratransit and the fixed routes are planning to take full advantage of the technology that is available.
- Paratransit drivers were showed a tape during their Safety meeting on how improve to their communications with people with disabilities. This tape is available for all City Departments use and will also be shown to fixed route drivers.

Recreation & Parks:

- Rich Hovden advised on the on going staff training for accommodating all citizens to be able to use Recreation & Parks programs and to reach their staff if special accommodations are needed. Rich also advised the group on facility accessibility improvements including the restroom facilities at Steele Lane Center and upgrades of Bocce Ball Courts in Julliard Park . The will also be working with CRI regarding accommodations to the Church of One Tree. Many other projects relating to ADA improvements are on the Capital Improvement Program list.
- Citizens expressed concern about the bridge in Julliard Park that is not accessible to people with wheelchairs and mobility devices. Rich advised that the issue is part of the Capital Improvement Program; however, the time frame has not been established. That project and

any other projects that require funding must go through the budget process. Next year's budget process will be underway in the next couple of months.

- Greg Scoles discussed the CIP (Capital Improvement Program). Beginning the first of the year there will be opportunities for Departments to start evaluating their own needs. The City has about \$1.5 million dollars a year in the General Fund for the Capital Improvement Programs. Between the beginning of the January and June 2007 the CIP budget will be allocated to specific projects, many of which may address ADA access requirements.

Administrative Services:

- Ed Buonaccorsi gave an overview on the facility survey of the twelve most used facilities including City Hall, City Hall Annex, Finley Center, Senior Center, Steele Lane, Aquatic Center, Family Community Center, Ridgeway Swim Center, Howarth Park, Public Safety Building, MSC North and MSC South. The survey identified those issues that do not comply with the current ADA standards; total estimated cost is over \$19 million dollars in identified needed changes. The Department is prioritizing immediate improvement plans in two phases. Phase 1 is about \$1.4 million and Phase 2 is about \$2.2 million; that list will be posted on the website. The City has finished improvement projects in recreation facility including Steele Lane, the parking lot to City Hall, City Hall entrance and library ramps, with overall cost of approximately \$205,000. The current projects that are being worked on are Ridgeway Swim Center, the counter and entrance at Risk Management and additional signage at City Hall.

5. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

- Paul Hess our Emergency Preparedness Program Coordinator passed around the COPE (Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies) Emergency Neighborhood Preparedness booklet. Several years ago the program was started in Oakmont by its residents because they are isolated from City and surrounded by forest and wanted to address how they would cope during a disaster such as a significant earth quake. Three quarters of their community have participated and been trained in this program. COPE teaches neighborhoods how to organize and prepare together as they may have to be their own first responders in a major catastrophe. It also works with people that may have physical limitations or special needs. It includes a census form for each household to fill out. The information is documented and put in the Neighborhood plan. The survey form includes information on residents who have mobility issues or any other special needs. It also identifies people who have first aid skills; anybody who will be helpful to the neighborhood during the recovery period of a major disaster; and people that have special equipment (tools, generators skills saws large outside grills) that could be used in an emergency. COPE is a resource for those with disabilities or physical limitations to plan ahead in case of a catastrophic event. It's a proactive program and Paul would like to see citizens get involved. City's goal is to get 10% of the City on the COPE program. The City's web site is on the back of the brochure and there is valuable information for disaster preparedness available on the web. In addressing our citizens with disabilities, public transportation will provide lifts for people using wheelchairs; service animals will remain with their owner; the American Red Cross will use an ADA accessible public shelters if possible; and the County Health Department will help those who require needed medications. This program attempts to teach our citizens to become as self-sufficient as possible during a catastrophic event when emergency services may not be available.
- Paul is asking for volunteer citizens to become COPE leaders. COPE requires two leaders in each neighborhood. He can help train those who are interested and encourages interested parties to contact him. Paul can be reached at (707) 543-3711 or by e-mail phess@srcity.org;

web site www.srcity.org drop down menu "Find It Fast" and selecting "Emergency Preparedness."

Jennifer Frazier advised Paul that the Earl Baum Center staff is available to give him help in addressing needs of the blind community including access to the information.

Citizen questioned why we don't have the 4 week long CERT program available in our community. Paul defined CERT as Community Emergency Response Team and that he is working with the Fire Department, who has trained staff, to offer the training to our community. It is a program where citizens are trained in fire suppression and other emergency response duties that not every citizen would have the time or ability to complete. COPE is an hour and a half program that more citizens are able to complete due to the shorter time commitment and will have an impact on a larger portion our community to help them deal with a catastrophic event.

Police Department:

- Lt. Zboralske advised the Police Department is updating its policies and procedures to contemporary standards. He will be working with Mardell in implementing policies and training to make sure that we can meet the needs of citizens with special needs. He is anticipating that by July 2007 we will have some model policies that can be reviewed by this committee.

Fire Department:

- Captain Shubin informed us that the transportation of service animals and mobility devices policy has been put in place within the Fire Department. The Fire Department asked that citizen's let them know if there are any problems with this issue so they can take immediate action to correct the situation.

Risk Management:

- Mardell gave an overview of the information that is on the City ADA website. Citizens that do not have computer access can contact her and she will mail information to them. She is also working on an ADA Tool Kit for City employees as a resource that includes accommodation barrier removal request forms; lists of sign language interpreters, a copy of the City's ADA transition plan, which is also on the ADA web page; and various other resources.
- Mardell introduced Skip Sparks from Kenwood Hearing Center, who put up the demo LOOP systems for the meeting. Skip explained the system's technology being around for 50 years or so. The loop/coil amplification system works for citizens using hearing aids. Head sets can also be used that work with this system. They can be provided in facilities as large as 10,000 square feet. This is common technology that is all over Europe and it is just starting to be utilized here in the USA. It's a small gauge wire that loops around the room and the demo system amplifies around 600 sq. feet. This technology has been installed around the community at various public facilities including some movie theaters, banks, and the Oakmont Community Center.

6. OTHER ITEMS:

- Margo Merck requested that during our next meeting in January, we start to consider how we can provide input into the Capital Improvement budget. She also requested that we have copies of minutes prior to the meeting and be made a part of the agenda.

- Shirlee announced that the North Bay Regional Center Newsletter included information of a bill #SB1270 that is significant. Recommendations are due to the Governor and Legislation by 2007. Copies were passed around for anybody who is interested in sending recommendations to the state workgroup
- Shirlee suggested that Mardell send a brief article for accessing the ADA Web page and Complaint and Accommodation and Barrier Removal Forms to Council on Aging, Becoming Independent, CRI and Earl Baum Center to be included on their web pages or in their news letters. Mardell will follow up with Shirlee to get this accomplished.

7. NEXT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING:

- Wednesday, January 24, 2007 @ 9:00 am. at the Finely Community Center, Cypress Room.

Meeting adjourned