
City of Santa Rosa Community Advisory Committee

Minutes of February 23, 2005 ADA Community Advisory Committee Meeting
Municipal Service Center—South, Room 5

Community Advisory Committee Members present:

Larry Henzerling, CRI
Jennifer Frazier, Earle Baum Center of the Blind
Margo Merck, Community Housing Development Corporation
Paul Bell, Becoming Independent
Shirlee Zane, Council on Aging

City Staff Members present:

Caroline Fowler, City Attorney's Office
Greg Scoles, City Manager's Office
Lynne Margolies, Risk Management
Cheryl Woodward, Transit & Parking
Marc Richardson, Recreation & Parks
Eric Jorgensen, Recreation & Parks
Bruce Heiser, Transit & Parking
Chris McNamara, Housing & Redevelopment
Nancy Garnowitz, Housing & Redevelopment
Dave Pinsky, Utilities
Daniel Dawson, Community Development

MIG Staff Members present:

Susan Goltsman
Laurel Kelly

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Report Backs
3. Review of City of Santa Rosa Department-Specific Policies
 - a. Parking Division
 - b. Community Development Department
 - c. Transit Division
 - d. Recreation and Parks Department
 - e. Housing and Redevelopment
 - f. Police Department
 - g. Utilities Department
4. Public Comments
5. Adjournment

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. REPORT BACKS

- ❑ Margo provided Lynne with her comments regarding changes to the minutes of the Feb. 7 meeting. Lynne will revise the minutes where applicable for minutes that are in action format.
- ❑ Caroline reported that there is a link to the budget process in the “Find it Fast” feature on the City’s website.
- ❑ Copies are available of the Builder’s Exchange program for contractors and the City will try to get a copy of the video on path of travel issues that was used in the training and make it available for the community.

3. REVIEW OF CITY OF SANTA ROSA DEPARTMENT-SPECIFIC POLICIES

A. PARKING DIVISION

Next steps:

- ❑ Committee members made several suggestions for additions to the transition plan for the Parking Division:
 1. Add a link from the Parking Division’s webpage to the ADA webpage.
 2. Add ADA-related information to the Parking Division’s webpage (such as contact information if a citizen has questions about accessible parking spaces).

Public comment:

- ❑ In response to a question from a community member regarding accessible on-street parking spaces in the 600 block of 4th Street (near Railroad Square), Cheryl indicated that she would investigate the feasibility of providing “blue” spaces.
- ❑ It was suggested that the City change the wording on parking signs from “Van Accessible Parking Space” to “Van Only Parking Space.”

B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Next steps:

- ❑ Committee members made several suggestions for additions to the web site for the Community Development Department:
 1. Add a link from the Department’s webpage to the ADA webpage.
 2. Add the Reasonable Accommodation ordinance and land use/zoning practices/policies to the City’s website.

Public comment:

- ❑ In response to a question from a community member regarding the lack of mezzanine-level access at the Salvation Army Thrift Store behind Target, Dan indicated that he would investigate whether this was a code violation. A complaint was also voiced regarding the wheelchair seating at the Roxy 14 Movie Theater on Santa Rosa Ave. Staff replied that the city is not involved in such issues unless there is a permit situation.
- ❑ One committee member reported that a “visitability” ordinance was currently under development in Sacramento. Susan offered to provide Dan with information about similar ordinances in other cities.

- ❑ Is code enforcement an area where disability organizations can help the City? It was also suggested that the City hire people who use wheelchairs to conduct compliance reviews.

C. TRANSIT DIVISION

- ❑ Caroline reported that there would be continuing opportunities for review and input into the transit plan.

Next steps:

- ❑ The City will provide a link on its website to area paratransit groups and information about accessible transportation options.
- ❑ The City will include information about service animals and transit services on its website.
- ❑ The City will investigate the option of contracting with other organizations that have their own accessible vehicles to fill in the late evening transit “gap.”

Public comment:

- ❑ Currently, the most important transit gap is paratransit service in the late evening hours (between 8 and 10 pm).
- ❑ People often have difficulty completing the paratransit application form.
- ❑ It was suggested that the City standardize the sensitivity training that City transit and paratransit drivers receive. The City mentioned that The Earl Baum Center currently assists with this training.

D. RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Next steps:

- ❑ Committee members suggested that the Department add a link from its webpage to the ADA webpage.

Public comment:

- ❑ Galvin Park has only one van accessible parking space and there may be a need for more spaces.
- ❑ One community member reported that they couldn’t use the ramp at Finley Park.

E. HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Next steps:

- ❑ Committee members made several suggestions for additions to the website for the Housing and Redevelopment Department:
 1. Add a link from the Department’s webpage to the ADA webpage.
 2. Also add information about visitability and the Fair Housing Act.
 3. Add a link to Building Permits on the ADA webpage.
- ❑ Committee members suggested several means of getting information about accessible programs to the public: improve the website and send out brochures to residents.

F. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Next steps:

- ❑ Committee members made several suggestions for additions to the transition plan for the Police Department:

1. Include the option of using the California Relay System for telecommunications with the Police Department.
2. Since the Police and Fire Departments use the same database, explain and publicize the premise information file program so people can alert the Police as well as the Fire Department of their special needs in case of emergency.

Public comment:

- Since a representative of the Police Department was unable to attend this meeting, Lynne took written questions for the Department from Margo. Community members also had several questions:
 1. When someone who uses a wheelchair is transported to jail via ambulance, what provisions does the Police Department have for the transport of the wheelchair to a secure location?
 2. Similarly, what provisions does the Department have for the transport and safety of service animals?
- Several suggestions for sensitivity training were made, including the San Francisco Police Department's training on how to arrest someone who uses a wheelchair.

G. UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Next steps:

- Committee members made several suggestions for additions to the transition plan and/or website for the Utilities Department:
 1. Add a link from the Department's webpage to the ADA webpage.
 2. Investigate the possibility of including a notice on bills about the availability of utility bills in alternative formats.
 3. Consider providing a discount on water for people with disabilities or low income.
 4. Publicize information about low flow showers and toilets to group homes.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Committee members made a recommendation that the City Council consider forming a permanent Disability Committee/Commission.

5. ADJOURNMENT

- This was the final ADA Community Advisory Committee meeting to review the ADA Transition Plan. Future meetings on other topics will be announced.