



DISABILITY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. with the following members:

PRESENT: Myra Ross, Chair; Victoria Dixon; Seren Derin; Elysse Link

ALSO PRESENT: Maureen Pollock, Planner and DAAC staff liaison; Town Council member/ DAAC staff liaison Pat De Angelis; Noah Grunberg, Architect; Stefanie Youssef, Lota Gamma Upsilon House Corp

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Review AAB variance request –Lota Gamma Upsilon House Corp for property located at 406 North Pleasant Street** - Noah Grunberg, Architect; Stefanie Youssef, Lota Gamma Upsilon House Corp. were present to explain the variance requests and to answer any questions.

The MAAB variance request is from Iota Gamma Upsilon House Corp for property located at 406 North Pleasant Street for the renovation of the two common bathrooms for residents (serving occupancy of 20). A bathroom is located on the first and second floor.

The following items are the specific variance requests made by the applicant:

SECTION NUMBER	LOCATION OR DESCRIPTION
26.6.4	Request 6” width of wall space, instead of 12” beyond the latch side of the push side door
30.6.1	Request to maintain a 67” depth in the accessible toilet stall instead of the required 72
44.6.2	Request to install a 36”x36” shower instead of a 60” wide shower.

Ms. Derin stated that a person in a wheelchair cannot access the building entrance, as there is a physical barrier which prohibits access. Asked if the applicant plans to install an elevator lift at the door entrance.

Mr. Grunberg stated the scope of work does not include the door entrance.

Ms. Ross asks if the sorority allows a person who uses a wheelchair to be sorority member. Asks if the sorority allows a person who uses a wheelchair to visit the sorority.

The applicant presents the variance requests related to the bathroom in detail.

Request 6” width of wall space, instead of 12” beyond the latch side of the push side door

The bathroom entrance will have a double swinging door of 36” width, with a hatch on 1 side. A person may open and close the door either way, as the door can swing both ways.

Request to maintain a 67” depth in the accessible toilet stall instead of the required 72

Mr. Grunberg stated depth is 5 inches shorter than what is required under MAAB regulations.

Ms. Dixon stated the proposed depth of the accessible toilet stall will work depending on the size of the toilet.

Ms. Dexin stated a person using a wheelchair may roll in, but they may not be able to close the toilet stall door. Mr. Grunberg responded the toilet stall door will self-locks so that shouldn't be a problem.

Request to install a 36”x36” shower instead of a 60” wide shower.

Ms. Dixon suggested the applicant to speak to a person who uses a wheelchair whether they can adequately maneuver a 36” x36” shower. Asks if the shower stall will have handrails and a folding seat.

Ms. Dixon states that if the MAAB does allow a 36” x36” shower, than it should work. If there is a need for assisting someone with maneuvering the shower, a personal care person would help the person.

Ms. Derin states she is disappointed that the door entrance is not ADA compliant.

Mr. Grunberg states that the proposed renovation does not amount to more than 30% of the full and fair cash value of the building, therefore, the applicant is not required to make the entire building fully accessible.

The bathroom on the first floor will serve 10 residents. The bathroom on the second floor will serve 10 residents. Both bathrooms have the same layout and specifications.

Ms. Ross asks if the third sink was removed, could the shower be larger.

Ms. Youssef stated that would not be ideal for the residents.

Ms. Dexin asked if there are grab bars proposed for the bathroom. Mr. Grunbery stated there is a grab bar proposed in the shower. Stated he can add more grab bars throughout the bathroom. Ms. Derin suggested that he add a grab bar in the toilet stall. Suggested that Mr. Grunbery speak with

Julia Meyers and/or Andrew Bristol who both work at Starvos Center for Independent Living about good accessible bathroom design layouts and grabs bars.

MOTION: Moved by Ms. Dixon, seconded by Ms. Link, and voted 3-0 (1 abstained – Ms Derin) to provide a positive recommendation to the MAAB for the variance requests as submitted, with the following suggestion:

1. Add grab bars throughout the accessible bathroom;
- **Taxi/Livery Partnership Grant program** – Ms. Pollock informed the Committee that she is assisting Mary Beth Ogulewicz, the Town’s Director of Senior Services with applying for a Taxi/Livery Partnership Grant program. The grant focus is to provide transportation needs for our vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities. As part of the grant application, the Town will need to partner with a licensed taxi or livery company for this year long program. For more information about this grant program, see link: <https://www.mapc.org/about-mapc/legal-notices-meetings/#transportation>

OLD BUSINESS: none

OTHER BUSINESS NOT ANTICIPATED WITHIN 48 HOURS: none

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: none

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: none

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Moved by Ms. Dixon, seconded by Ms. Derin, and voted 4-0, to adjourn at 1:06PM