

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY
DRAFT Minutes for Tuesday, December 17, 2013

COME TO ORDER at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Members Attending: Ralph Montefusco and Patrick Standen, Co-Chairs, Michael Watson, Kesha Ram, Brad Stephenson, Elaine Zimmerman, Ron Redmond. We welcomed Nathan “Nate” Besio who is representing VCIL. **Visitors:** Tom Ayres, Becky Cassidy, Sarah Stickle of First Night Burlington

CHAIR’S REPORTS

1. Discussion with First Night Burlington

- Website has new accessibility section.
- New mobile application will make accessing website easier
- 17 of 18 sites are accessible by wheelchair and each site has designated parking for folks who are disabled. A variety of performances will be interpreted for the deaf and hard-of-hearing by American Sign Language interpreters. The Flynn Center Main Stage is equipped with an infrared hearing reinforcement system for the benefit of audience members with hearing disabilities. Contois Auditorium in City Hall is equipped with a hearing assisted sound system. 242 Main is not.
- Shows featuring ASL interpreters include Circus Smirkus, 1:00 pm; Singalong with Robert, Megan and Emer, 2 PM; Jernigan Pontiac, 3 PM; Kat Wright & the Indomitable Soul Band, 6 pm; A2VT, 7 pm; Family Friendly Comedy with Dustin Bruley, 8:00 pm, The House of LeMay, 9:00 PM; Christian McBride, 10:00 pm.
- Sarah is holding site manager trainings at each of the 18 venues; site managers will then train the volunteers.
- Sarah will put out a Survey Monkey to get feedback as to what can be done better next year.
- Patrick Standen discussed his and others challenges faced in a wheelchair during First Night when it snows before or during snow storms. Recommended that new ways be considered for snow and ice removal on sidewalks
- Ralph, Patrick and committee members will draft a letter to the Mayor and the Director of Public Works, to request special attention to public sidewalk between venues the First Night venues.
- Patrick discussed ADA requirements for a non-profit organization. Group discussed what is First Night’s responsibility for accessibility as a non-profit, which does not own or manage the majority of its venues. Religious institutions are exempt from ADA but ones in Burlington exceed expectations. It was agreed that ADA rules are not clear around this. Group discussed the definition of “undue burden” or significant difficulty or expense, per the ADA.

(1) nature and cost of action needed under this part; (2) overall financial resources of site or sites involved in the action; the number of persons employed at the site; the effect on expenses and resources; legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation, including crime prevention measures; or the impact otherwise of the action upon the operation of the site; (3) geographic separateness, and the administrative or fiscal relationship of the site or sites in question to any parent corporation or entity; (4) If applicable, overall financial resources of any parent corporation or entity; the overall size of the parent corporation or entity with respect to the number of its employees; the number, type, and location of its facilities; and (5) If

applicable, type of operation or operations of any parent corporation or entity, including the composition, structure, and functions of the workforce of the parent corporation or entity.

- Michael Watson asked that we communicate to DPW that they not use the downtown's handicap spaces as temporary snow dumps.

2. Ad Hoc Committee Updates

- Special thanks were given to Brad Stephenson and his team for the work done with First Night Burlington.
- Formation of a Media Committee was discussed. Ralph discussed Shelly's interest in forming a media committee and about the "how to's" of creating public service announcements. Group brainstormed different ideas for a public service announcements and determined it would be important for Shelly to be part of future discussions.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:21 p.m.

FIRST NIGHT BURLINGTON ACCESSIBILITY BY VENUE:

Alumni Auditorium in the Hauke Student Center at Champlain College

BCA Center

- Accessible entrances on Church Street and through City Hall Park
- Accessible elevator
- Accessible bathrooms
- Accessible parking
- All city parking garages
- 2 spots at West corner of Church and Main
- 2 spots near West corner of College and Main

Contois Auditorium

- Accessible entrances on Main Street and Church Street
- Accessible elevator
- Accessible bathrooms
- Accessible parking
- All city parking garages
- 2 spots at West corner of Church and Main
- 2 spots near West corner of College and Main

Edmunds School Gym and Cafeteria

- Accessible entrances on South Union (side door) and through back parking lot
- Accessible elevator and ramps between venues
- Accessible bathrooms
- Accessible parking
- Back parking lot via an entrance on Maple Street. Accessible entrance is located at the side of the gym closest to the school's main entrance.
- Accessible seating in venues

First Baptist Church

- Accessible entrance off Saint Paul Street on North side of Church
- Accessible parking in back lot off Pine Street
- Accessible seating in venue

First Congregational Church

- Accessible entrance on South Winooski Street
- Accessible elevator and pathways between venues
- Accessible bathrooms
- Accessible parking
- 4 spots available in the Church's parking lot near the front entrances
- Accessible seating in all venues

First United Methodist Church

- Accessible entrance off South Winooski Street, through a driveway between UPS and City Market
- Accessible bathroom
- Accessible elevator
- Accessible parking
- 5 spaces off North Winooski Street, through a driveway between UPS and City Market
- Accessible seating in venue

Fletcher Free Library

- Accessible entrance on College Street
- Accessible bathrooms
- Accessible elevator

- Accessible parking in lot off College Street and near Memorial Auditorium

Flynn Center MainStage and FlynnSpace

- Accessible entrances on Main Street
- Accessible bathrooms
- Accessible elevator in FlynnSpace
- Accessible parking

Memorial Auditorium

- Accessible entrance on South Union Street
- Accessible bathrooms
- Parking
- 2 spaces on South Union Street between Memorial and College Street Congregational Church

242 Main Street at Memorial Auditorium

- This venue is not accessible by wheelchair

Phoenix Books

- Accessible entrance on Bank Street
- No elevator needed
- No bathrooms in store

Roxy Cinemas

- Accessible entrance on South Winooski Street
- Accessible seating in venue

Unitarian Universalist Church

- Accessible entrance on Clark Street side of Church
- Accessible elevator
- Accessible bathrooms
- Accessible parking

YMCA

- Accessible entrance on South Union Street
- All First Night programs are on street-level floor; no elevator needed
- Accessible bathrooms
- Accessible parking

- Accessible seating in venue

- 1 spot is available directly in front of the Main entrance
- 2 spots are across the street at the West corner of Church Street and Main Street
- Accessible seating in both venues

- 1 space on Main Street in front of 242 Main
- 1 space behind Memorial Auditorium just off the Fletcher Free Library parking lot
- Accessible seating in venue

- Accessible parking
- Designated spots in City parking garages
- All spots on Bank street are accessible

- Accessible parking in City garages and on College Street
- Accessible bathroom

- 5 spots at North end of Church
- 2 spots at white house adjacent to Church
- Accessible seating in venue

- 1 spot at South Union Street end of the City Market parking lot. Please do not use City Market's spaces, as they are for City Market's customers only.
- All spots on South Union Street