



DARAC

(Disability Access Review and Advisory Committee)

Draft Meeting Minutes U.S. Access Board Conference Room 1331 F St. NW Washington, DC

September 28th – 30th, 2015

1) **Call to Order.** The Meeting was called to order by Chair Toby Olson at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 28, 2015 in U.S. Access Board's room, 8th floor at 1331 F St. NW Washington, DC.

2) **Committee Attendees.**

Present	Name	Position
Y	Rocky Burks	Retired Access Manager, D.O.T, City of Sacramento, CA
Y	Allan Fraser	NFPA Staff
Y	Jessica Hubert	
Y	Marilyn Golden	DREDF
Y	Marsha Mazz	US Access Board Representative
Y	Gail Minger	Michael H. Minger Foundation
Y	Tom Norton	Norel
N	Richard Skaff	Designing Accessible Communities
Y	Toby Olson	Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment
Y	Stephen Spinetto	Retired ADA Commissioner, City of Boston

Y	Mary Troupe	Exec. Director, Just Advocacy
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Guests:

Marty Ahrens	NFPA, Fire Analysis & Research Division
Todd Anderson	AIA
Kathryn Butler	National Council of Independent Living
Wendy Couchman	DHS/FEMA Regulations and Policy Team
Fredrick Krimgold	Virginia Tech Advanced Research Institute
Jeanne LaFratta	US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
Matthew McCoullough	DC Developmental Disabilities Council
Robert Solomon	NFPA, Division Manager, Bldg. Fire & Life Safety

3) Approval of Minutes: The minutes of June 8-9, 2014 meeting, sent out 8-27-14, were approved by a vote of 7-0-1. Ms. Hubert abstained as she was not at that meeting.

4) Membership: The committee discussed several thoughts on membership. The general feeling was that the committee needs to be expanded with new members who represent young adults (high school or college students) with disabilities, deaf and hard of hearing, and cognitive disabilities, particularly someone on the autism spectrum.

It was expressed that those individuals should have some direct experience with a fire or similar emergencies in order to best serve the committee's charge and goals.

5) The Chair created a task group consisting of himself, Marsha Mazz, Gail Minger, Rocky Burks and Jessica Hubert to review and comment on the experience and fit of prospective members when they are suggested for membership by an existing DARAC member. Those reviews and

comments will then be forwarded to NFPA’s staff for consideration of future appointments.

6) Codes and Standards: The committee noted that diagrams in all NFPA codes, standards and handbooks, both print and digital, need to have appropriate alternative text (Alt Tag) attached to them. While screen readers can handle most, if not all of the “standard” codes and standards text, alternative text needs to be used for diagrams and other graphics.

The committee suggests that those individuals submitting diagrams and graphics be required to include the alternative text to be included with them. NFPA needs to provide instructions for submitters on how to write appropriate alternative text. In-house staff should be trained as well. DARAC staff may be able to help with finding resources.

7) 2016 Conference & Expo: DARAC voted to sponsor three (3) educational session for the 2016 C & E. They are:

124	Codes and Standards	2015 Edition of ANSI/ICC A1171 Standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities? Update
596	Emergency Preparedness/Business Continuity	Who is Responsible for Conducting Emergency Evacuations? Not First Responders
379	Emergency Preparedness/Business Continuity	Interactive Overview of NFPA's New Technical Committee on Building Fire & Life Safety Directors

The committee made a number of suggestions for staff to raise during session 596 with respect to creating training for BOMA, NAOC, fire academies, etc. T. Norton and A. Fraser will meet with D. Bliss to discuss the potential.

8) On a motion made by R. Burks and 2nd by M. Golden, the committee voted unanimously (8-0-0) to have the chair send a letter to NFPA president and CEO Jim Pauley asking him to reconsider allowing NFPA staff to vote on the ANSI A117 Committee, “Accessible and usable buildings and facilities.” While DARAC understands the concerns that might be created relating to staff voting on committees of other

organizations, DARAC members strongly believe that such is not the case in allowing staff to vote on the work of the A117 committee.

9) NFPA staff member Ryan Depew joined the committee via conference call to give an update on NFPA 1616 *Mass Evacuation and Sheltering*. He stated that the 2nd draft meeting will be held the last week in March, 2016 and that they are more than welcome to attend and to submit public comments if they chose. He will also provide call-in information for task group meetings to A. Fraser to distribute to members and again they are welcome to participate. DARAC proposed and member Gail Minger agreed to apply for membership on that committee. Staff will help her with the paperwork.

10) The committee heard an update from staff on the new NFPA project: "Building Fire and Life Safety Directors" which will be creating a document that will apply to buildings with occupancies over 500 people. A. Fraser is the staff liaison for that project. DARAC proposed and member Jessica Hubert agreed to apply for membership on that committee. Staff will help her with the paperwork.

Staff told the committee that that committee (BLF-AAA) is proposing to have an interactive panel session at the 2016 C&E to talk about their vision and to gather input from the public.

11) The committee discussed FR 6011 to NFPA 5000 in great detail. M. Mazz agreed to do a first markup for the committee to review and comment upon with the goal of the committee approving a public comment for the first draft meeting. The deadline for submission is May 16, 2016 with the meetings to be held the end of June, 2016.

12) The committee discussed many items in detail that need to be addressed or updated in the new edition of NFPA's *Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities* including, but not limited to, stair descent devices, resistance to compliance, inclusion of analysis of obstacles and broken links. Members agreed to read through the document again and send ideas and comments to staff to include in the update planned for calendar 2016. The committee strongly disagrees with having the document for sale as its contents are most needed by those who can't afford to buy it. The committee would also like to encourage updates being done more often.

- 13)** 2016 Conference & Expo – “Accessibility Expo”, Las Vegas, NV June 13-16, 2016.
- a) Staff has submitted the DARAC suggested session related to a better understanding of responsibilities for evacuations, particularly large scale evacuations.
 - b) Members suggested that staff & ROC contact these vendors for booths:
 - i) accessible signage vendors, maybe SEDG, (<https://segd.org/home/index.html>)
 - ii) Oval Fire Products,
 - iii) Deaflink (www.deaflink.com)
- 14)** The committee went through the proposed changes to the bylaws and made a number of additional changes, most of which were editorial. Staff will incorporate them and distribute a draft for any further comments. Once agree upon, a formal letter ballot will be sent out.
- 15)** NFPA’s Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities. The committee went through the Guide page by page and offered specific places and text for updates. Rocky Burks will check all the links and send broken ones to staff for repair. Marsha Mazz will go through Annex “A”
- 16)** Independent Living Workshop, November 4, 2015. Robert Solomon gave the committee a preview on the workshop. The health care world for seniors is changing rapidly with new levels of care and the means and methods for delivering them outside of the traditional systems. Codes and standards need to expand to make provisions for these new levels and systems. A report on the findings and results of the workshop will be forwarded to DARAC for their information.
- 17)** Marty Ahrens, NFPA’s senior manager in the Fire Analysis and Research Division gave the committee and invited guests an informal presentation on her report, “Physical disability as a factor in home fire deaths: (Rev. June2014 by Marty Ahrens). Her presentation was well received and the committee and guests asked a number of questions and offered a number of suggestions and ideas related to improving the

data in the future so as to expand the insight into fire deaths of people with disabilities in an effort to have a basis to make changes to codes, standards and practices to further reduce fire related deaths among people with disabilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, September 30, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan B. Fraser, NFPA Staff Liaison