



# DARA

(Disability Access Review and Advisory Committee)

## Draft Meeting Minutes

**Saturday and Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Surf “F” (Meetings) & Surf “E” (Dining),  
Mandalay Bay Conference Center,  
Las Vegas, NV**

**Call to Order.** The Meeting was called to order by Chair Toby Olson at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 11, 2016 in Surf “F” in the Mandalay Bay Conference Center, Las Vegas, NV

### **1) 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
N	Gail Minger	Michael H. Minger Foundation
Y	Tom Norton	Norel Corp.
N	Richard Skaff	Designing Accessible Communities
Y	Toby Olson	Executive Director, Governor’s Committee on Disability Issues and Employment
Y	Stephen Spinetto	Retired ADA Commissioner, City of Boston
Y	Mary Troupe	Senior Manager, Centene Corp.

**Guests:**

Christian Dubay	NFPA V.P. Codes & Standards
Lorraine Carli	NFPA V.P. Outreach & Advocacy
Mike Hazel	Division Manager, Web
Mike	OHO Interactive
Jim	OHO Interactive
Ron Cote	NFPA staff

**2) Revisions to the bylaws:** Revisions to the bylaws were presented to the committee by its task group two meetings ago, June 8-9, 2014. They have been reviewed and modified by the committee at meetings and via e-mail since then. On a motion by R. Burks, seconded by M. Mazz, the committee approved the attached bylaws as written.

**3) Election of Chair and Vice Chair:** Toby Olson turned the chair over to the Staff Liaison who called for nominations for the position of chair to be elected for the term of three (3) years. The only nomination was for Toby Olson. It was moved and seconded to close nominations. The committee unanimously elected Mr. Olson. The Staff Liaison then called for nominations for Vice-Chair to be elected for the term of three (3) years. The only nomination was for Stephen Spinetto. It was moved and seconded to close nominations. The committee unanimously elected Mr. Spinetto.

The Staff Liaison turned the Chair back to newly re-elected chair, Toby Olson.

**4) Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of Sept. 28-30, 2015 Meeting in Washington, DC were unanimously approved as written

**5)** Staff made two announcements. First, that there would be a group dinner 6:00pm Saturday night at Wolfgang Puck's *Lupo*, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Mandalay Bay on the corridor leading from the Casino to the Parking Garage. Second, that Christian Dubay, P.E., Vice President and Chief Engineer, NFPA would be attending the meeting at some point in response to DARAC's letter requesting reconsideration of staff voting on A117 committee.

**6) Updates on NFPA activities and initiatives:**

a) Staff presented an overview of all the education and "Annex" sessions being presented this week.

- b) **DARAC's new webpage:** DARAC's new webpage was demonstrated for the committee. The committee very much like the concept and the page and suggested the following changes to improve it:
- i) Only show the most recent two items with links to the others in an "archived" location
  - ii) Add links for related material. Staff to provide to those materials to the webmaster
  - iii) Correct Marsha Mazz's affiliation to "U.S. Access Board"
  - iv) Replace bylaws with those just voted
  - v) Change the order of the DARAC membership so that Toby Olsen is first and add "Chair" after his name and Steve Spinetto is second with "Vice-Chair" after his name and then the rest alphabetically
  - vi) Add links for "e-ACCESS" <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/people-with-disabilities/e-access-newsletter> and the "Guide" <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/people-with-disabilities>

- c) **2nd edition of the *Emergency Evacuation Guide for People with Disabilities*.** The committee requested several changes to the cover specifically related to the icons. In addition, the committee noted that there is an increasing use of more stylized icons on websites and materials in general, but their only concern is specifically related to the "International Symbol of Accessibility".

They pointed out that the International Symbol of Access (ISA), also known as the (International) Wheelchair Symbol, consists of a blue/black square overlaid in white with a stylized image of a wheelchair. It is maintained as an international standard, ISO 7001, and a copyrighted image of the International Commission on Technology and Accessibility (ICTA), a committee of Rehabilitation International (RI).

Since it is under an international standard, DARAC voted unanimously to staff send a letter to appropriate NFPA divisions requesting that only the ISO 7001 symbol be used in any and all NFPA publications where such symbol is used.

The committee suggested that developing a version of the "Guide" specifically for Colleges and University's would be a good idea.

- 7) **New Task Group:** 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.

- 8) **NFPA Voting on A117.1:** Christian Dubay, P.E., Vice President and Chief Engineer, NFPA joined the meeting Sunday morning in response to DARAC's letter to Jim Pauley requesting reconsideration of staff voting on A117 committee. Chris explained the rationale behind the policy change. He then responded to a number of questions from the committee and their arguments that the A117.1/NFPA relationship is unique from that of other SDO's.
- 9) **Report: NFIRS Incident Types:** DARAC discussed this report in some detail. DARAC voted to have staff send a letter to Jim Pauley requesting that NFPA investigate the possibility of creating e-training for local personnel who code the NIFRS reports. They believe that such training would have multiple benefits and it would be consistent with NFPA's "Big Data" initiative. As the report notes, there is much inconsistency in how events are coded which makes good analyses of the data difficult at best. Such training would benefit local codes and could improve the data related to people with disabilities that DARAC believes is very inaccurate if not completely missing. In addition, it should contain a section explaining the importance of "your" data to the local firefighters/coders and how it can make them safer on the job.
- 10) Marsha, Marilyn and Allan provided an update on the status of the current cycle of A117.1. It is hoped that it will be published before the end of this calendar year, even though that will be too late to publish/cross reference in the NFPA 5000 Building and Construction Safety Code-2018. NFPA may want to consider a TIA when A117.1 is published in order to be current prior to the next cycle.

Staff will keep track of information for the 2021 cycle of A117 and keep DARAC members updated as they may wish to create proposals in the Group B cycle.

- 11) The committee discussed the new Building Fire and Life Safety Technical committee and its scope. Consistent with DARAC's response to the Standards Council's request for input when it was creating the TC in the spring of 2015, "If approved, the project should be inclusive in all of its procedures and include specific requirements related to people with disabilities" DARAC voted to have Jessica Hubert apply to BLF-AAA as a principal representing DARAC and Rocky Burks apply to BLF-AAA as her alternate representing DARAC. Staff will help them with the applications where needed in order to be on the November Standards Council meeting agenda for appointment.
- 12) **Update on re-building NFPA's website:**—NFPA's Lorraine Carli, VP of Outreach and Advocacy, Mike Hazel, NFPA's Webmaster and Mike and Jim with vendor, OHO Interactive presented NFPA's new website that will officially launch tomorrow, June 13<sup>th</sup>. The committee had high praise for the concept realization and all of the work

that has been done which has included a large number of functionality items for people with disabilities that DARAC had raised as concerns over the past few years.

Members, Staff and the vendor's staff had an excellent lengthy back and forth discussion asking and answering questions on both sides and taking notes for follow-up actions. DARAC members offered ongoing availability to help in any way they can and reiterated how pleased they are with the new site. They can be reached through their Staff Liaison.

### **13) Ideas for NFPA's 2017 Conference & Expo in Boston:**

- a) A new section has been added to the IBC proposed by a man from New Hampshire, who works for the Feds in Boston and was born deaf. It would be great to have him do an education session and maybe have some vendors of this equipment in the expo.

Proponent: Andrew Cid, representing Private Citizen for The Initiative for Emergency Elevator Communication Systems for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Speech Impaired (andycid99@gmail.com)

**Add new text as follows:  
3001.2**

#### **Emergency elevator communication systems for the deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired**

An emergency two-way communication system shall be provided that:

1. Is a visual text-based and a video-based live interactive system,
2. Is fully accessible by the deaf and hard of hearing and speech impaired, and
3. Is located between the elevator car and the local emergency authorities at a point outside of the hoistway.

#### **Reason:**

The addition of the terms "visual, text-based and video-based live interactive communication systems" is strongly recommended to emphasize the need for totally accessible communication in elevators between local government emergency authorities and individuals who are: Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Speech Impaired. This type of communication system is long overdue and strongly recommended for installation and retrofit into public elevators in existing buildings and for new construction. A similar proposal was considered by the A117.1 Standards Committee in 2014, but not approved. The IBC and IEBC should take the lead on this topic and establish this requirement that is needed by our communities..

**Cost Impact** - The cost impact, to a recommended 70% of the existing building inventory for public and commercial buildings that are three (3) stories or higher with elevators, is expected to be negligible or minimal to the building owner / operator. Any costs incurred is anticipated to be alleviated with the use of various incentives such as tax write offs for complying with new accessibility standards. In addition, for new construction, it is expected that there will be no significant additional costs involved because it will be built into the design / build. For existing buildings, the estimated cost for such a system is approximately \$2,500. For new construction, the system will cost approximately \$5,000.

- b) A Tour of the Massachusetts Hospital School in Canton, MA – T. Norton can arrange.
- c) A Tour of the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital – S. Spinetto can arrange
- d) A tour of Boston Emergency Management Center – Need contact, Maybe Boston Fire
- e) UMASS Boston Emergency Management for People with Disabilities – AnneMarie McLaughlin

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm on Sunday, June 12, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan B. Fraser, NFPA Staff Liaison