

**Illinois Accessibility Task Force**  
**June 30, 2010 - 1:30 p.m. – CDB’s Chicago Office**  
**with Video Conferencing from CDB’s Springfield Office**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Task Force Members in Attendance**

**Senator Pamela Althoff**, Chairperson (representing the Minority Leader of the Senate)  
**Rep. Tim Schmitz** (representing the IL House of Representatives)  
**Douglas Gamble** (representing the IL Capital Development Board)  
**Robert Sondgeroth** (representing the IL Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools)  
**Vickie Simpson** (representing the Illinois Attorney General)

**Task Force Members not in Attendance**

**Rep. Keith Farnham** (representing the Speaker of the IL House of Representatives)  
**Senator Michael Noland** (representing the Senate President)  
**Debbie Davis** (representing the Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities)  
**Vacant** (representing the IL Association of School Boards)

**Guests in Attendance**

Doug Anderson, LCM Architects  
Christine Scully, LCM Architects  
John Catlin, LCM Architects  
Shirley Anderson, AIA Illinois & ICC  
Bob Neale, ICC  
Susan Weitekamp, ISBE  
Lisa Mattingly, CDB  
Nicki Patterson, CDB  
Windy Gerlach, CDB  
Glenn Smith, CDB

Senator Althoff called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m.

Introductions were made by the Task Force.

Senator Althoff stated the first item of discussion was vertical accessibility of press boxes. The committee was going to discuss all options for vertical accessibility. Mr. Gamble stated he has allowed portable lifts and has also suggested that schools give the press boxes to individual entities such as the sports boosters. By doing that, as a private facility it would not have to be accessible as long as it was less than 1,000 square feet. No school has opted to do this. Most private entities do not want the liability of a press box, in case someone would get hurt. Vickie Simpson would not like to see this as an option; she doesn't see it as including people with disabilities. Mr. Catlin believes that in limited circumstances some small press boxes may need to not be accessible, and he believes this is a very difficult problem. Ramps may be too high for a wheel chair to make it up, however free standing elevators could cost as much as \$200,000. John went on to say it is conceivable that a ramp or ramping system could be used for a press box if it wasn't too high. The Federal ADA has exempted small press boxes (less than 500 square feet, aggregate). This is limited to small stadiums having only one entrance. Mr. Catlin noted that lifts typically have a limit of 12 feet, which is probably not appropriate for press boxes. A LU/LA would go higher, which is more expensive. Ms. Simpson noted with new technologies that a possibility might be to have a lift and then a ramp. Mr. Catlin agreed that might be a reasonable response, and would need to be looked at.

Mr. Sondgeroth noted that they have had instances come up in baseball fields where they have a concession stand with a place above it for the scoreboard operator. In tournaments, the press might go in there. The question has been does that need to be accessible? Mr. Gamble stated that if someone called him on that type of criteria, he would say that it would need to be accessible. Mr. Sondgeroth stated that is where the smaller exemption that Mr. Catlin had spoken of would come into play.

Mr. Catlin thought the IAC would offer something similar to Title I. Ms. Simpson stated the IAC and the EBA are building codes. The ADA is a civil rights law. The Illinois Human Rights Act provides for protections and for discrimination.

Senator Althoff questioned Mr. Gamble if he felt the purpose of the task force was to put items in place and then wait for the ADA to be signed into law. Mr. Gamble said yes and felt the CDB would be agreeable to the 500 square feet minimum for accessibility. Ms. Simpson stated that Illinois is in the forefront and doesn't want to take a step backwards. She said that she would take this to the Illinois Attorney General and get her input on this issue. She also would like to get input from the people of Illinois.

Ms. Simpson wanted to note that the IAG has never required a complete elevator for press boxes, but has required platform lifts. Mr. Catlin stated that he believes that the platform lift is a reasonable answer to press boxes within 12 feet high.

Ms. Simpson believes the task force needs to determine for sure how high a platform lift will go. Mr. Gamble will see if he can have someone from the State Fire Marshall's office come to the next task force meeting to address this.

Senator Althoff asked Mr. Gamble if he would like to go to the next item on the agenda which was discussion of pages 1-40 of the IAC as they relate to school property. Mr. Gamble stated he would like for each task force member to email him with their comments and suggestions and he can then compile and organize these at the next meeting. Mr. Gamble asked that when each person review pages 1 – 40 of the IAC to please look for any things in the IAC, such as the press boxes and other items related to schools, in general that need to be addressed. He feels this is a starting point for revising this code.

Mr. Anderson and Ms. Simpson both believe the new ADA will be out by the end of July. After discussion, the task force believes they should be looking at the new ADA and the IAC. Mr. Gamble said the task force should wait until the Federal ADA is signed and then compare it to the IAC. He will provide the task force with information that will compare the two in regards to school property. Mr. Gamble will provide this information to everyone a week or so before the next meeting.

Senator Althoff and the Task Force discussed dates for the next meeting. It was decided the next Task Force meeting will be on August 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in Chicago with video conferencing available in Springfield.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.