



DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

City & County of San Francisco
1660 Mission Street, San Francisco, California 94103-2414

ACCESS APPEALS COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

1:00 P.M.

City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Way, Room 416

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Brown called the meeting of the Access Appeals Commission to order at 1:13 P.M.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Alyce Brown, President
Ms. Roslyn Baltimore, Vice-President
(Mr. Jurgen Dostert, Commissioner*; (not
officially present for voting purposes)
Mr. Arnie Lerner, AIA, Commissioner
Mr. Walter Park, Commissioner

CITY REPRESENTATIVES:

Neil Friedman
Secretary to the Commission
Ms. Susan Pangilinan
Recording Secretary
Ms. Elaine Warren
Deputy City Attorney
Ms. Doris M. Levine
Reporter

APPELLANT'S REPRESENTATIVES:

Mr. Edward Persico
Otis Elevator Company

Ms. Kathleen E. Finnerty
Greenberg-Taurig, Attorney for Otis Elevator

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

3. REVIEW OF COMMUNICATION ITEMS:

*Commissioner Dostert excused himself from participating in any discussions or voting, due to recent absences.

4. CONTINUED APPEAL:

Appeal No. 07-17 (Permit Application 2007/1025/6493) 475 Sansome Street

Neil Friedman read a summary of the case. This case is for approval of equivalent facilitation of 'destination-based' elevator controls installed at 475 Sansome Street by the Otis Company.

Ms. Kathleen Finnerty discussed the 6 page spread sheet that she had prepared dated 11-21-07. The spread sheet contained comments by public users of the Otis Company's 'destination-based' elevator controls and responses to those comments by the Otis Company. She stated that she is seeking equivalent facilitation and is not requesting a blanket approval for any other installation.

Testimony regarding various operational concerns of the Otis 'destination-based' controls was given by Jessie Lorenz, Director of Public Policy at the Lighthouse, Linda Porelle, President of California Council of the Blind, Dr. Joshua Miele from Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute and Mr. Yen from the Independent Resource Center. It was mentioned that Mr Richard Scaff, Director of Designing Accessible Communities, wanted to be there but could not.

Commissioner Park presented his own suggested list of amendments to Ms. Finnerty's spread sheet. He distributed copies to the Commissioners.

Ms. Finnerty said that she is already going forward on correcting the issues of concern.

The Commissioners asked the City Attorney if she could clarify the meaning of precedent setting.

A motion was made to accept (and ratify), as discussed, the amended list, submitted by Commissioner Park, of 16 items needed in order to approve Appeal No. 07-17 to provide equivalency for the 'destination-based' elevator controls at 475 Sansome Street:

1. Location of controls

- 1.1 Elevator controls shall be wall-mounted, not pedestal or kiosk mounted (note: this condition is existing at 475 Sansome Street.)

2. Control display

- 2.1 Displays shall meet ANSI font size and type requirements
- 2.2 Displays shall provide a contrast ratio of at least 10:1, against a solid, static background,

3. Control keypad

- 3.1 Keypads shall meet ANSI configuration, size, and tactile feedback requirements
- 3.2 Keypads shall include ANSI 'Access' bar key
- 3.3 Keypads shall state 'Elevator', in Braille, as specified in California Building Code (CBC) 1117.5.1

4. Control confirmation, when using the 'Access' key

- 4.1 After using the 'Access' key, there shall be immediate speech feedback directing user to enter floor number.
- 4.2 Controls shall provide auditory confirmation of each key press, using ‘beep’ or voice
- 4.3 If no key has been pressed for an interval of four seconds, there shall be an auditory prompt
- 4.4 There shall be an auditory rejection of an invalid floor request or other invalid key presses

5. Auditory signal clarity and volume

- 5.1 Auditory responses shall meet ANSI requirements for volume, of at least 10dB above ambient, but not above 80dB
- 5.2 For clarity, announced car letters shall include phonetic letter name (‘A’ as in Alpha, 'B’ as in Bravo, etcetera; this is also known as the NATO Phonetic Alphabet)
- 5.3 For clarity, directions to correct car will be given relative to the keypad (such as 'two cars to the left').

6. Arrival announcement

- 6.1 Each car shall announce each 'Next Stop' as doors close at previous floor or not less than 5 seconds before doors open, allowing preparation for exit.

7. ANSI (American National Standards Institute) requirements

- 7.1 Per ANSI section 407.2.2.3, Audible signals: The audible signal shall be a minimum of 10 dB above ambient, but shall not exceed 80 dB at the hall call button.
- 7.2 Per ANSI section 703.5.1, Finish and contrast. Characters and their backgrounds shall have a non-glare finish. Characters shall contrast with their background. . .

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Commissioner Brown | Yes |
| Commissioner Lerner | No* |
| Commissioner Park | Yes |
| Commissioner Baltimore | Yes |
| Commissioner Dostert | Abstained (not formally present for voting) |

- * **Commissioner Lerner stated that his no vote was based upon the absence of a requirement to have the elevator cars adjacent to the control panels respond after activation of the special access bar.**

The motion passed, 3-1.

5. COMMISSIONERS’ AND STAFF’S QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Secretary Friedman mentioned that there is an Administrative Bulletin (AB) being drafted and is in its early stages, regarding ‘Destination Based Elevators’ (DBE).
Commissioner Dostert mentioned that it would be better to have DSA write code than the DBI.
Commissioner Brown apologized to the Otis Company for all they have gone through and thanked all who have spoken and contributed information to help educate everyone regarding DBEs.

Commissioner Lerner wants to see guide lines for the DBE, from an independent study, which can be used in the future.

Commissioner Park mentioned the following:

Thanks to the appellants and consultants for their clarification.

Wants to recommend that the Building Department along with The Mayor's Office on Disability, fund a study for DBE.

Asked about the status of past AAC minutes.

It was pointed out that at today's meeting, minutes for October 24 and November 14, 2007, were distributed for review.

Secretary Friedman mentioned that a decision for 2720 Taylor Street was never made.

He said that the architect for the project had called, stated that the Permit Application was about to expire and asked that some resolution be made in the case. Secretary Friedman suggested that the Commissioners independently go to the site to observe the conditions.

Secretary Friedman said there are no cases scheduled for January except to discuss old business.

President Baltimore wants to meet 'as a Commission' at the site and have a place to meet on site to make a decision.

Commissioner Lerner wants to invite Spencer Gosch of the Technical Services Division (TSD) at DBI to meet at the same site to discuss the draft of the DBE.

Commissioner Park wants copies of information about the case dealing with 2720 Taylor Street.

3. REVIEW OF COMMUNICATION ITEMS:

There were no items to discuss

6. TOPIC:

There was no public comment

7. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 PM.

These notes are an approximate summary of the Commission meeting.

Full transcripts of these meetings are available for the cost of transcription. Copies of the audio tapes are also available for the cost of making the copies.

Neil Friedman

Senior Building Inspector

Department of Building Inspection

Secretary to the Access Appeals Commission