The special meeting was held on August 30, 2011, at 4:35 p.m., at City Hall Building, 419 Fulton St, Room 404, Chair Mike Van Cleve presiding.

ROLL CALL
Roll call showed the following Committee Members present: Roger Sparks, Teri Miller, Joy Kneebone, John Williams, John Block, Connie M. Schiele, and Mike Van Cleve – 7. Absent: Janet Quintilianii – 1. Also present was Steve Myers, Public Works Department and Staff Liaison David Watkins, Equal Opportunity Manager.

MINUTES
None

COMMUNITY INPUT
None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None

Publicity Committee
No Report

Events Committee
No Report

NEW BUSINESS
City Hall Wheelchair Ramp
Commissioner Mike Van Cleve asked Staff Liaison David Watkins to introduce guest. Staff Liaison Watkins announced Steve Myers from the Public Works Department was present to answer questions about the proposed reconstruction of the wheelchair ramp to accessible entrance of City Hall.
Steve Myers reported the Department of Justice did a survey of City Hall and found the ramp was not in compliance with ADA regulations because it did not have the required landings at the top and bottom of the ramp. He mentioned could not add landings to existing ramp because would cause slope to exceed regulated ratio. Myers mentioned did look at moving ramp to the Fulton or Madison St entrance, but both required additional work beyond the construction of the ramp to make them accessible. Some of the issues mentioned were possible relocation of gas meters (Madison side), stairwell to basement entrance (Fulton side) and complete replacement of doors (both sides).

Myers told members were planters are currently on right side of present ramp looked at constructing a switchback ramp. However, found this could pose a problem with access aisle. He explained a vehicle could back into space let lift down and block entrance to ramp. Myers liked current redesign because allows for two entry points onto the ramp from the parking lot. He mentioned the Historical Commission thought the design would allow for the planting of greenery for screening of the building.

Commissioner Roger Sparks thought the design could be improved by connecting the ramp to the Fulton St sidewalk to allow individuals using public transportation to access the ramp without having to go behind vehicles parked in lot.

The members were told a temporary ramp would be installed at the Madison St entrance during construction.

Commissioner Mike Van Cleve suggested changing the wording of one of the general construction notes on the plans to protect against having to bring those areas up to new ADA standards if damaged during construction. Myers explained the note in question primarily covers any damage done when old ramp is pulled out of blacktop.

Commissioner Teri Miller asked if old ramp would be eliminated. The response was no another ramp will be built in its place. The ramp will be used to bring things into and out of the building. Myers explained a ramp was safer than stairs. Both ramps would have railings.
The members thought Commissioner Roger Sparks’ concern about having an informational sign at the accessible entrance directing individuals to the City Hall directory was a valid point. All the members thought such a sign should be placed near the Madison St entrance as well. Steve Myers had no objection to directional signage, but he considered it a separate issue from the ramp.

The idea of changing the slope of the ramp from 1:12 to 1:14 was also discussed. Commissioner Mike Van Cleve mentioned he understands the maximum slope is 1:12 and by lowering slope the run of the ramp would be extended. Because he is aware of how the slope of ramps is checked, he thought changing the slope to 1:14 would allow for slight variations due to how concrete settles yet it would help keep the entire ramp within required range.

Steve Myers mentioned he would discuss with the contractor idea of lowering the slope.

At the end of discussion, the members were told their comments about the ramp would be shared with the City Council. A copy of the meeting minutes would be sent with a report back.

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS**

1. None presented

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Teri Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner John Block.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.