

NIBS Low Vision Design Committee Meeting Minutes

10 January 2012, 1 pm – 5 pm
NIBS Building Innovations Conference
Marriott Metro Center Hotel, Washington DC

Present:

- David Breslow, RTC Inc. (retail research)
- Robert Dupuy, Interface
- Greg Guarnacia, Doubledge Design
- Vijay Gupta, PE, US General Services Administration (ret.)
- Stuart Knoop, FAIA, OKKS Studios (ret.), committee vice chair
- Fred Krimgold, PhD, Virginia Tech
- Barbara Milleville, National Capital Citizens with Low Vision
- Eunice Noell-Waggoner, Center of Design for and Aging Society
- Pris Rogers, American Federation for the Blind
- Erin Shambureck, IIDA, interior designer
- Dennis Siemsen, OD, Mayo Clinic
- Edd Soenke, AIA, NIBS Board Liaison
- Stephanie Stubbs, NIBS staff director
- Lam Vu, PE, Construction and Facilities Management (CFM), Facilities, Standards Service, Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- Gale Watson, Blind Rehabilitation Service, Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- Tom Williams, General Services Administration
- James Woods, PhD, PE, indoor environment consultant, committee chair

Welcome and Introductions:

- Members of the group went around the table and introduced themselves.
- Agenda was approved unanimously.
- May 16, 2012 Committee Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

Follow Up on Action Items from Last Meeting:

- **Look for evidence-based studies to share:** Mary Ann Hay was not at the meeting; this item was deferred to next meeting. Related discussion followed:

Edd mentioned that there is a new Wiley publication: *Design for Aging: International Case Studies of Building and Program*, by Jeffrey W. Anderzhon et al. (3/12; ISBN: 978-0-470-94672-5)

Stephanie mentioned the new AIA/NIBS Building Research Information Knowledgebase BRIK portal, and that the papers presented at the LVDC symposium that morning were among the first 100 research papers to be included in the data base. [www.brikbase.org]

Eunice: “You have to go through a portal to get to NIH studies.” NIBS may qualify for access (Erin also may have access through her university.)

Action: Eunice will send Stephanie examples of the kind of NIH research she wants; Stephanie then will see if NIBS can gain access to the NIH portal.

- **Send proposal to Marsha—who can present it to disability committee and engender some support:** Greg Guarnaccia and Eunice Noell-Waggoner haven’t done this task yet. It is deferred until the next meeting.
- **Forward article Lam Vu wrote for his office about the symposium to the LVDC.** Lam Vu wrote and supplied written copies of the article.

Action: Stephanie will send out Lam’s article with the minutes.

- **The Mayo Clinic might be able to help with sites.** Dennis Siemsen said that if we needed test sites to gain input for consumers and to use LV patients for testing, he would check into availability of site at the Mayo Clinic.
- **Develop Abstract on White Paper: International lighting standards:** Robert Dupuy has done preliminary research by talking to code experts in the UK Australia, and China. He spoke about research with a UK lighting designer. He found out they are starting an “ADA” equivalent in Australia. China has nothing like it. He concludes that RP28 really is the standard—most countries have nothing at all.

Vijay: India has had the equivalent of ADA since 1995—they have done very little with it. Mark Bar-Or from Israel wants to contribute. He is sending information to Robert and Stephanie. David Breslow: There is very little info on lighting in stores, and what exists is largely sponsored by lighting industry.

Robert said he would write a “summary” for the next meeting.

- **Develop Abstract on Study of light levels/contrast in corridors and stairways:** Eunice Noel-Waggoner and Stuart Knoop say this item is continuing. Eunice wants to get Texas researcher (?) together with Priscilla. When safety is at stake, it reaches a new level of performance.

Stuart: A lot of other spaces need attention, as does signage. There is a real art to doing it. Jim: Need an abstract that we can add to.

- **Develop Research Abstract a portion of the proposed NIH study:** Jim Woods reiterated that the proposal “passed,” but there was not enough enthusiasm to get funded.

Jim further noted that Bob Massof received a White House award for the work that he’s doing.

Dennis: This actually got a high enough score that if there were more money, it would have gotten funding. We need to ask Bob where we should go with this. It was \$10 million for whole thing; \$500,000 for start.

Edd: Can we approach NIST?

Jim: That’s a possibility, as is approaching NSF.

Fred: Could we approach VA or GSA?

Jim: The research probably is too basic. The start of the consortium is McClung (funding).

Vijay: Maybe join with American Council for the Blind (Paul D’Addario’s group). Go over to the White House?

Barbara: I am also a member of ACB. They determine 5-6- issues that they take to the Hill, and they have already established their agenda. Mitch Pomerantz [President of the ACB] established the agenda. We should get buy-in with other organizations.

Fred: Has anyone done a survey of who does what funding?

Jim: We have to go to after funding with an idea.

Fred: Should we look at doing a separate NIH beginning proposal?

Jim: I would like to hear from Bob first.

Action: The committee says to move forward. Jim Woods will look into it.

- **Develop Abstract on Evidence-based research for the IES Handbook—maybe some standards:** Dennis now has a research assistant who can help with the legwork of looking at the medical literature: e.g., How do you define glare? Some of the research is in other data bases. Some are in other countries. It will be very useful.

Recap and First Impression on the Symposium:

Stephanie liked multidisciplinary approach.

Jim: personally didn't hear any new info, but he thought it had a strong appeal. There is a gaping hole that we can help fill. He doesn't think anyone else is doing the work that we are doing now. Combining the medical aspects and the design aspects is unique.

Vijay: I think people have been working these issues for 30 years. They were not aware of what can be done with the buildings.

Greg: What do we have to do to get more of the stakeholders involved? Everyone here was presenting or already bought in.

Jim: I think this is an awareness issue.

Gale: When ADA came out, guidelines went up all over. Why not with low vision?

Stuart: ADA was a civil rights act.

Dennis: Another issue is that there are so many different vision-issues group. ACB is people with vision impairments are working together. There also are disease-specific groups. There isn't one cohesive voice speaking.

Gale: The court says the feds must be 508 and 504 compliant. There are other ways to get this done.

Jim: Marsha Mazz has been guiding our Committee. People with mobility issues and blindness are conspicuous. Most of the time, you can't tell who has low vision.

Edd: Identify who in congress is on the top of the food chain for this issue, as Tom Harkin was for ADA.

Tom: The more awareness there is, the better it is for this committee and for getting support. There are congressmen and senators that can help.

Action: Vijay will contact Paul about the Feb. meeting. Stephanie will share this information with the group.

Eunice: Barbara said this is the first time she heard that energy (vs. lighting) was an issue.

Erin: That extends to educating congress about the issues with energy and lighting.

Fred: Is NIBS focusing this issue with other energy-related committee?

Edd: You really need to get some cutting edge in there. LV could get the same support that BETEC has.

Action: Edd will make sure that LVDC has an energy-consumption liaison.

Fred: NIBS is the place to reconcile energy codes and low vision.

Edd: We have to work with local building codes and fire marshals. They are concerned with mitigating the largest risk. Try to dovetail with IBC.

Robert: We need someone from the codes development side. NFPA impacts egress paths and lighting.

Tom: How about a person from DOE?

Jim: they could overwhelm.

Vijay: We need to keep them aware.

Stuart: It's premature to involve them.

Stephanie: Fred is right: It's NIBS's role to reconcile these kinds of issues.

Edd: Emery Rogers, an Arlington code official just retired and left the NIBS board. He was replaced by Cindy Davis of Norfolk.

Action: Stephanie will talk to Joe Deringer and Henry about involvement in the codes process and the lighting/energy issue.

Codes/Standards and Guidelines Efforts:

- **FGI Guidelines for *Design and Construction of Long Term Residential Health, Care, and Support Facilities*:** This effort is moving along. Greg and Eunice have more to do on lighting controls. The Senior Care section is coming up to review.

Action: Eunice will contact Stephanie when the Senior Care section is up for comments. Stephanie will notify the group. Committee members will comment. Jim will assimilate comments and call for a committee vote.

Edd: We should contact the Pankow Foundation for a grant—we can show that we’re protecting the safety and health of the U.S. public.

Gale: The VA’s Health Services funds aspects of health services. Some programs are funded to conduct detections research aimed specifically aearly detection of possibly blinding disabilities per se. The Center for Excellence for Aging Veterans with Vision Loss in Atlanta focuses on mobility. You have to be a VA researcher to be the primary researcher.

John Boozman (Ark. Senator): Sits on the Appropriations, Environment and Public works, and VA committees. Edd mentioned that John may have an LV background.

- **IES Committee/ASHRAE 90.1: 2014. Development of guidelines for interior illumination.**

Eunice: Public comments ended Dec. 30. Addendum will be in effect in summer. Addendum will be published in the new standard in the fall. It entails Lighting Power Density (LPD) increases in facilities that service Low Vision people and senior care facilities.

- **Revisions to ANSI/IESNA RP-28-07: *Recommended Practices for Lighting and the Visual Environment for Senior Living***

Eunice: This is still in review until March, and then it goes to the Technical Review Committee. It should be done early fall in this year (28-13); We are reorganizing upfront material.

Action: Stuart and Jim will edit their contributions when they receive the revised draft.

Robert: RP-28 is mentioned in energy codes and electrical codes. It gives designers the ability to apply lighting levels.

Eunice: The Facility Guidelines references RP-28.

Research and Outreach Efforts:

- **Revised proposal for National Eye Institute:** Jim talked about how the submitted project received marks high enough to normally receive funding; this however, was a low funding year.

The group discussed the possibility of breaking the proposal into smaller pieces and submitting a less ambitious chunk.

- **Lions Club:** Jim presented a proposal for funding to the Springfield and Fairfax Chapters; it moved up the chain, but the District Governor failed to sign it. The proposal was found in the Lions Club International Foundation's office in Chicago and is being returned for signature. Vijay is pursuing what the next course of action should be. It may go through the February 2013 cycle for review. A new District Governor is coming on board in July; we may have a better chance then.

Fred: The Wilmer Clinic [Johns Hopkins] has had very active support. Bob Massof's connection to the committee should be mentioned in the proposal.

- **Article for *Architect* magazine.** Stuart Knoop's article had been circulated before the meeting; Attendees agreed it was an excellent article. Stephanie reported that NIBS hadn't heard back from the magazine yet. Edd knows Ned Kramer, the chief editor; he will contact him.

Action: Stephanie will send Stuart's article to Edd; Edd will contact Ned Kramer.

- **Westminster-Canterbury Low vision Group:** Jim Woods talked about the Continuous Care Retirement Community of 400 residents where he lives, 80 of whom are in the Low Vision Group. Jim gave a slide presentation to them in September. Their average age is 75, and they could serve as a case population with other residents at the CCRC as a control group.

Action: A research proposal will have to be developed.

- **Metro System Lighting:** Barbara Milleville presented a talk about the National Capital Citizens with Low Vision Group's advocacy work with the Washington Metro board, which resulted in an article in the *Washington Post* and *Citizen* newspapers in December.

Action: Fred and Greg will help Barbara develop her advocating efforts with Metro.

Gale suggested that Barbara use simulators to have Metro people have low-vision experience. Pris will help Barbara obtain the simulators, should she decide to use them.

Guidelines Development Draft:

Action Reviewers need to send in their comments on the revised format by January 31.

Jim: The Guideline has two major points:

- Lighting is not in the title: this effort is bigger than just lighting.

- Luminance design evolves to measuring lighting at the eye; not just at surfaces.

Stuart: Please give us sources where lighting is needed. We have no feedback yet on Chapters 2 and 3. The low-vision people need to pick up what Stuart has missed, i.e., information on retail facilities and museums. We need the evidence behind the design statements.

Erin: How do we measure luminance in the field?

Jim: A Minolta Luminance Meter does that. It is commercially available for about \$2,500.

Greg: But it's hard to find one and they're expensive. You can use a digital camera to calculate luminance map. But the digital camera has to be calibrated against a Luminance Meter.

Edd: You also need to add LED lighting.

Action: Stephanie will send the current draft guidelines to Edd.

Gale: You need to explore alternative ways to get things done as you are going through the code process. If there are shortcuts—use them. How did it work with ADA? How did that happen so fast?

Stuart: The ANSI standards were in place before ADA.

Erin: We need to network to share information.

Education:

Tom: We need to educate everyone—including architects—to do it right the first time. Education is the key.

Gale: Education in the public interest takes money.

Eunice: We can propose smaller research projects. Do some analysis of what works and what doesn't. We're looking for studies on contrast, for example. At least we can present something that's current. It needs to be from an environmental side [i.e.—energy use] as well as from a user side.

Outreach and Next Meeting:

Jim: The major focus on our May meeting will be Outreach. We need to develop an awareness program.

Pris: If commercial institutions (such as Walmart) see that it benefits them—they might fund research. It is worth consideration.

Jim: We need a chair for the Outreach. Committee

Fred Krimgold volunteered to co-chair the committee.

Action: Anyone wanting to co-chair the Outreach Committee with Fred should e-mail Stephanie.

Possible dates for the May meeting: Possibly 2nd or 3rd week. Stephanie will coordinate.

Eunice: We should Invite the chair of the AIA Committee on the Aging to join our group.

Action: Stephanie will invite the AIA Committee on Design for Aging to participate in the next Committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Action Items Summary

- Action: Deferred and continuing Action Items to be updated (see pages 1-4)
- Action: Eunice will send Stephanie examples of the kind of NIH research she wants; Stephanie then will see if NIBS can gain access to the NIH portal.
- Action: Stephanie will send out Lam's article with the minutes.
- Action: The committee says to move forward on contacting the ACB about their February meeting. Jim Woods will look into it.
- Action: Eunice will contact Stephanie when the Senior Care section is up for comments. Stephanie will notify the group. Committee members will comment. Jim will assimilate comments and call for a committee vote.
- Action: Stephanie will talk to Joe Deringer and Henry about involvement in the codes process and the lighting/energy issue.
- Action: Eunice will contact Stephanie when the Senior Care section is up for comments. Stephanie will notify the group. Committee members will comment. Jim will assimilate comments and call for a committee vote.
- Action: Stephanie will send Stuart's article to Edd; Edd will contact Ned Kramer.
- Action: Fred and Greg will help Barbara develop her advocating efforts with Metro.
- Action: Reviewers need to send in their comments by January 31.
- Action: Stephanie will send the current draft guidelines to Edd.
- Action: Anyone wanting to co-chair the Outreach Committee with Fred should e-mail Stephanie.

- Action: Stephanie will invite the AIA Committee on Design for Aging to participate in the next Committee meeting.

DRAFT