



recreation accessibility consultants, llc

August 2014

## What's In a Name?

Our firm, Recreation Accessibility Consultants, LLC, is one of the family of companies at W-T Engineering. RAC, as many of you call us, was formed in 2008. We operate in pursuit of our mission, which is to provide access and inclusion consulting that helps public and private entities comply with state and federal requirements for accessibility and the inclusion of people with disabilities. My friend Scott Triphahn (the "T" in W-T) persuaded me to come to W-T and form RAC in 2008.

Our clients benefit greatly from RAC being a part of The W-T Family of Companies. Need landscape architecture designs for an accessible playground? Need a civil engineering solution for accessible parking woes? Need workable plumbing retrofits for accessible restrooms? All of that and more is here at The W-T Family of Companies, available to you.

RAC has helped many entities since 2008. Whether you are a business, state or local government, parks and recreation agency, branch of the military, nonprofit, or a professional association, the W-T Family of Companies has helped you serve your community. The W-T Family of Companies has been your **ADA Advantage**.

The RAC e-newsletter is a collection of brief stories about RAC clients, technology updates for people with disabilities, smart practices, federal rulemaking activity, disability in the news, and court and administrative decisions. We thought changing our name from "INCLUDE ME!" was timely. Our new subject line, and theme, is "**To Get Ahead, You Need an ADA Advantage**".

Read on!

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## ABOUT US

## **Terry McGovern Earns ADA Coordinator Credential**

We offer our hearty congratulations to Terry McGovern, who earned his credential as an ADA Coordinator this summer. He joins one other RAC staff with that credential. We think that this credential is particularly important for our park district, city, and county clients.

## **Linn County (IA) Retains RAC for Phase 1 of System Wide Access Audit, Public Feedback, and Transition Plan**

"I sat in the NRPA webinar that John McGovern did in the fall of 2013 and thought, "The County has to get moving on this," said Dennis Goemaat, Deputy Director of the Linn County, Iowa Conservation agency. Dennis returned to his office and suggested an access audit. Others in the County were already considering how to meet this mandate, and soon the County developed a three-phase approach, and issued a request for proposals. RAC was awarded the work in early August.

The Linn County ADA project is different than some other communities. "We believe strongly in citizen involvement," said Darrin Gage, who will oversee the project for Linn County. "We already have an existing ADA Advisory Committee and want RAC to work closely with that group so we know what our citizens want."

RAC starts Phase 1 audits of County administrative facilities in early September, and at the same time will meet with citizens and begin a policy review.

## **Our In-Box: Does a Farmers' Market Have to be Accessible?**

At the June Convention of the Maryland Municipal League, RAC President John McGovern spoke in an educational session about a wide range of topics facing municipalities as they attempt compliance with some of the broad and vague ADA requirements. For example, how does one make a skate park, or a community garden, or a disc golf course, accessible? After each session, John lists himself as a resource and invites people to call or email him with questions. And sure enough, last week two women from Maryland asked how does one make a Farmers' Market accessible?

Recreation Accessibility Consultants, LLC has the skill to aid park districts, park and recreation agencies, forest preserve and conservation districts, and special recreation agencies in their endeavors to provide recreation to people.

[More About RAC...](#)

## **QUICK LINKS**

[WTEngineering.com](http://WTEngineering.com)

[BrusseauDesignGroup.com](http://BrusseauDesignGroup.com)

[IAD-llc.com](http://IAD-llc.com)

[CDG-llc.com](http://CDG-llc.com)

Well, we think... **Click [HERE](#) to read more.**

## **Fitness and Accessibility...Lessons Learned**

Last month we reported that RAC President John McGovern would conduct two workshops for members of the Illinois Park & Recreation Association Fitness Section. He did, and enjoyed both the August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> workshops in Joliet and Mt. Prospect. However, **he** also learned. He learned... **Click [HERE](#) to read more.**

## **Oak Brook Park District (IL) Retains RAC for Transition Plan**

The Oak Brook Park District retained RAC to develop the mandated 35.150(d) transition plan. "We used an architect to complete an access audit of our sites and facilities. Now we want to develop a phased plan for where and when we'll correct access deficits," said David Thommes, Director of Recreation at the Park District. RAC teams swept the Park District sites on August 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, completing verification audits and matching our findings to the reports of the architect. Our next step is to develop recommendations that phase the corrective work and report those to the Park District.

## **Some Changes at RAC**

Our firm, like all others, continually changes. Last month we told you about a change in title for Shelley Zuniga, our now Vice-President. This month we announce two other changes.

Terry McGovern was promoted to Project Manager, effective August 1. As Project Manager we'll expect him to be involved with all aspects of jobs to which he is assigned. He'll also coordinate with Vice President Zuniga on the use of our other skilled and well-trained human resources. With his credential as an ADA Coordinator, we'll expect him to be more involved in public feedback supports for communities that choose that RAC service. Terry was one of our Senior Accessibility Specialists.

Tanya Scheibe was also promoted to Project Manager, effective August 1. As Project Manager we'll expect her to be involved with all aspects of jobs to which she is assigned. She'll also coordinate with Vice President Zuniga on the use of our other skilled and well-trained human

resources. With her credential as Registered Accessibility Specialist (Texas), we'll expect her to be more involved in plan review services for those who request that RAC service. Tanya was one of our Senior Accessibility Specialists.

Many of you reading this have worked with Terry and Tanya and know they deserve this change!

## **New Mexico Recreation and Parks Association 2014 Conference**

The New Mexico Recreation and Parks Association (NMRPA) annual conference is slated for September 9 to 11 in Las Cruces, NM. RAC President John McGovern is scheduled to speak about the application of the ADA to New Mexico parks and recreation services, sites and facilities. John started his parks and recreation career in New Mexico and is looking forward to returning.

Do you need a speaker for your state or regional conference, or staff inservice, that has a career in parks and recreation, knows the 2010 Standards, and knows court and administrative decisions? Reach John at [john.mcgovern@rac-llc.com](mailto:john.mcgovern@rac-llc.com).

## **Justin Bieber...Wheelchair User or Wheelchair Hoax?**

We are not sure that if anyone had suggested we'd use a headline with Justin Bieber in it that we'd agree. But...here it is. Some of you may have seen the article about Justin Bieber in a wheelchair at Disney. Some say he used the wheelchair to get to the head of the ride queue, saying, "I don't do lines." On the other hand, his "people" say he hurt his ankle playing basketball and was just **resting** in the wheelchair.

Regardless, it is a good teaching moment.

We believe in equality here at RAC. Having a disability isn't the end of the world, quite the contrary, many people with disabilities live full, rich lives. And we think that equality means: **Click [HERE](#) to read more...**

## **Shelley Says...**

Vice President Shelley Zuniga chose to write about accessible routes this month. What a great connection to

the article above regarding the Farmers' Market. You too have accessible route obligations, so read on... [Click HERE to read more...](#)

*Disclaimer*

*Nothing in this newsletter is legal advice. It is instead a relaying of decisions and information about the application of the Americans with Disabilities Act to public parks and recreation. Readers interested in legal advice should seek an attorney licensed in your state that knows the ADA and can apply it to parks and recreation.*



**THE W-T FAMILY OF COMPANIES**

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