

## May 7, 2025 Community Conversation: Public Restrooms and Accessibility

In attendance: Melissa, Erin, Leann, Tom, Jason, Suzie, Susan, Laurie, Lindy

### **What has been your experience using the library restrooms?**

- Very difficult, we just go home. We have to plan our visits around restroom issues.
- Must keep clean, check restroom more than once a day. Perhaps put up a sign that says if this isn't clean please let us know.
- There is no sign that says you need a key. The key on door is hard to open.
- Different door opening mechanism.

### **How might we make the library restrooms more accessible for all?**

- Make larger. Doors could be widened. Doors could be widened to 42 inches from 32. If this happened the helper and the patron could both fit through the door at same time.
- Remove stalls out of bathroom, get higher/taller toilets/commodes, changing table or hygiene station.
- Make a sign for downstairs bathroom.
- Get automatic faucets, toilets, lights, door opener and toilet paper should be very close. Some automatic toilets need better calibration. This reduces touch points
- Mural or art on walls
- Create story boards that have pictures and visual symbols. For example, like washing your hands.
- Help Button
- Bidet 26 dollars on amazon.
- Braille on door
- Service dogs need water
- Bulletin board against the wall with things on them about sex assault, domestic violence, human trafficking
- Loud hand dryers. It messes with people with sensory issues.
- A hook on the wall for a purse or oxygen tank

- A foot opener for the door. A push door also

### **Whose perspective might we be missing?**

- Little kids, parent's perspective.
- Have we asked the teens?
- Make sure bathroom latches aren't too tall so a kid doesn't get locked in and can't reach it. Have a back up key in case.

### **What could we be overlooking?**

- Larger kitchenette
- Fire alarms/smoke detectors that flash or make noise.
- Open bathroom door with voice command
- Evacuation chair in case of emergency
- Buttons?
- When a patron in a wheel chair came in the front door they had to pop a wheelie to get in, maybe a little ramp.
- Check ramp at emergency exit
- There was a bike near the auto door opener and covering the button

We really appreciate the community input at this conversation.

### **Next Steps:**

We have a plan drawn up that fits within the \$10,000 budget of the grant. We will take this plan to the Library Board for approval. It includes removing the partitions from both restrooms, and repairing the floor. One of the toilets will be removed and the plumbing capped for future possibilities. We will place a locking cabinet over the plumbing for supplies. The doors will have new openers installed which will help with their "weight". The handles will be changed to a push from the outside and large pull handle within. The keys will no longer be necessary as we will have deadbolts that include outside visual cues for "Occupied" and "Available".

We will apply for grants to install an adult size changing table in one restroom and a hygiene station in the other. This cost is far above the amount that we have for the ALA grant.

We will install hooks in the restrooms for purses or oxygen tanks.

We will get story boards to post in the restrooms for those who are non-verbal/don't read for things like washing hands.

We will investigate many of these other suggestions to decide the feasibility/cost and apply for grants as needed.