

**ADA ACCESSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD
MINUTES
February 24, 2009
Human Relations Conference Room, First Floor, City Hall
10:15 A.M.**

Disclaimer: The ADA Accessibility Review Board is a citizen board volunteering their time to give necessary feedback on projects of the City which may have an impact on Title II of The American's with Disabilities Act. The intent of the review is not to evaluate complete compliance with an accessibility standard, but to ensure overall programmatic accessibility. The Board is not presented all the information and is not given sufficient time for a thorough review. The Board's review is merely cursory and should only be considered a recommendation of the Board. The Board recommendation should not be considered a certification that the project meets ADA standards. The Board only reviews the project based on The American's with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines and other U.S. Access Board guidance and does not address any local codes, such as any building codes or fire and safety codes. Any conflicts in local codes should be addressed by the appropriate parties.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Niemeyer called the meeting to order at 10:26 a.m.

Board members present: Sarah Aldinger, John Faundeen (via telephone), Ryan Green, Doug Hoy, Joel Niemeyer, and Melissa Radigan.

Board member(s) absent: Dennis Theel

Staff present: Colwill and Garry

Guests present: Chad Kucker, Confluence and Tory Miedema, Sioux Falls Parks & Recreation

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Green moved to approve the minutes from the November 25, 2008, meeting; Hoy seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Election of Officers

Green moved to nominate Hoy as Chairperson, Aldinger as Vice Chair and Faundeen as Third Officer; Radigan seconded. Motion passes by unanimous.

Hoy, Aldinger and Faundeen will serve a one year term as officers. Niemeyer will continue to officiate at today's meeting to allow Hoy to operate the laptop for the visual aids for the today's meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Regarding the Phillips Avenue Project, Kucker reported the stamped concrete was reduced at the trolley stop next to the benches and at some of the other areas as well. Kucker will ask about getting the updated plans for the Board to review. No word on the possibility of mid-block crosswalks.

NEW BUSINESS

McKenna Park Phase II – Chad Kucker, Confluence. Phase II finishes out the updates to McKenna Park. Last year a new accessible trail to the north end of the park and new basketball courts were constructed, and the formal garden area was updated. Phase II will include an accessible trail to the south end of the park to include the southeast corner, update the band shell, parking lot and tennis court area.

The parking lot will remain in the same area where the slope in the drive will be adjusted. The accessible parking spaces will be rearranged so one is on each side of the parking lot. A new walkway will continue past the picnic shelter, an access to the formal garden will be added and a new tennis/restroom building will be added at the tennis courts. This will include accessible restrooms, storage area for park maintenance staff, and a space for the Tennis Association to use when there are tennis events taking place. The plaza space in front of it will have three benches – each with an accessible space next to the benches for those using mobility aids. The benches are metal with a back and arm rests. A new drinking fountain will be added to the restroom building to replace the inaccessible drinking fountain. The concrete surfaces are a broomed finish, even the colored sections and the pattern is saw-cut. The parking lot will not be enlarged at the request of the neighbors.

Hoy asked if the proposed bench is considered accessible. He thought the benches should allow space for someone in a wheelchair to transfer to the bench. The Board discussed whether it is required. This will be verified, but consensus is that for outdoor, recreation areas armrests are required, but not additional space at the end to transfer to the bench.

Faundeen asked about the information kiosk shown on the master plan. Kucker said the design changed from the original master plan. The current plan is similar to what has already been in place; a low wall on one side of the walk with the park's name on it and on the other side of the walk is a sign pier with a plaque noting the park's 100th anniversary. It is just an ornamental feature. Miedema stated that because park information doesn't get updated regularly, the Dept. decided not to use the information stations any longer. They use sandwich board to advertise their events.

Improvements to the band shell include an accessible path from the main park trail to the band shell and new concrete pads under the existing bleachers with the universal symbol of accessibility tiled into the accessible seating areas (3 spaces in the seating area.) For access to the back of the band shell, to access the stage, there will be an accessible path that leads from the concrete path in the front, ramps up around the south side of the band shell (at less than 5% slope) and allow access to the stage. The stairs will be removed and the area will be filled in to allow for the accessible path to the stage. This will also connect to the public walkway along 26th Street. The sidewalk on 26th Street will be raised to meet the accessibility requirements. Presently, there are no public sidewalks along 2nd or 4th Avenues.

Faundeen asked about accessible picnic tables. These are not included in the project; the picnic tables are portable. Miedema stated that there are accessible tables at every park that has picnic tables and each has the required number of accessible tables based on the number of tables at each. Most are located in the picnic shelters, but due to their portability, they can be located anywhere in the park.

At the southeast corner, the main accessible path continues. The area will be graded to provide the required slope. Accessible benches will be added along the path.

Fencing around the existing horseshoe pits will be replaced. As part of that project, an accessible route will connect this area to the main trail. Aldinger asked if accessibility from 2nd Avenue to the horseshoe pits was considered since that is where most people park when they go to them. There is some curb ramps but no path. Miedema stated several reasons make putting accessible paths here difficult; the elevation from the street, trees, and high voltage buried cable. They have been trying to insert pathways to the different park features from the main accessible path.

Aldinger asked about accessible seating at the tennis courts. Miedema stated the concrete on the south side of the tennis courts is being expanded to increase the surface area and should allow for plenty of accessible seating. She also questioned whether the turning radius at the entrance is included in the restroom design. Kucker will verify and make adjustments if needed.

The bid goes out in March and will be completed by August. Construction needs to be scheduled around two different state tennis tournaments.

Radigan moved to recommend approval of the McKennan Park Phase II plans with verification of the required turning radius at the restroom door; Faundeen seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Staff will research the turning radius requirement.

Sherman Park – Softball complex. Last year the fields along 12th Street were redone with new shade structures, fencing and paving; this year will take in the remaining fields. The parking lot along 12th Street will be removed and will be made into drop off/ turn around area.

A new parking lot will be added immediately to the south of the SD Battleship Memorial; to the east of the fields that were renovated last year. There will be more spaces than the old parking lot with accessible parking spaces on the west side of the lot for access to those fields to the west and spaces on the north side to access the Memorial. There will be a connection from this area to path that leads to the concrete area that surrounds the museum part of the Memorial. The parking lot in front of the Memorial, along 12th Street will remain. This lot has the required number of accessible parking spaces.

Fields H and I will be completely rebuilt. They will be reconfigured to allow a shared plaza space. There will be three connections to this plaza from the parking lot with the accessible parking scattered around the perimeter with access to the different use areas. The fields are being pushed out an additional 50 yds. to allow for all of the

parking spaces to be used; otherwise the front rows aren't used often due to balls hitting cars parked there.

Faundeen wanted to know what determines the placement of the van accessible parking. The van accessible spaces' access aisles are aligned with the access to the fields. Faundeen expressed concern about this placement due to someone trying to unload/load with the crowd directed to the same access point, though they are wider and there are more than required. Miedema said the lot has already been striped, so shifting the access aisle will have to be studied to lessen the confusion caused when restriping is done. It may require the loss of one parking space. Faundeen asked if one of the accessible spaces in the north lot can be made van accessible and shift the access aisle location so it doesn't share the access aisle with the general access to the use area. Kucker thought it could be worked out.

An accessible drinking fountain is located in the plaza between fields H and I. It is one with two bowls similar to the one already in use at the facility. Green questioned whether the fountain is detectable by someone with vision impairment since it is too high to be found when 'sweeping' for protruding objects. Discussion tried to determine if it is a barrier and what is required for an outdoor space. Staff will research the requirement.

Green moved to recommend approval of the plan for North Sherman Park with the adjustments to the access aisles for the accessible parking spaces so they are not located directly in the pedestrian access to the use areas and with the determination if a detectable warning needs to be in place at the drinking fountain; Hoy seconded. The vote was unanimous. Staff will research the detectable warning issue.

Aldinger left at 11:45 am.

Rhino Exhibit – The Rhinos will be relocated to an area that is bordered on the west by the recreation trail/river. The Rhinos are currently located in a prime area where redevelopment is targeted and need to be moved. The new area is called the African Kopje area.

The new area is located directly off the Masai Market. The pathway comes up and around and into the main visitor plaza. The area is flat and grading will only be done to insure drainage. There should be no problem meeting the 2% cross slope and the 5% running slope requirements. The pathway is 12' wide concrete, colored, and not stamped.

The confinement area is separated by a 3'6" railing and is 12' away from the viewing area (due to spray.) A sight line in will be maintained. In the winter the animals will be exhibited inside the building. During the summer visitors will be able to see both exhibit areas from the outside viewing area. The doors to the winter viewing building are on automatic openers – no push buttons. The viewing area will still have a 3'6" high railing around the viewing area. A kiosk may be added at a later date to this area with

enrichment information about rhinos. There is a keeper walk area where keepers can put on a show. This area is lowered. The other part of the building will have stalls used to clean them off or for mating.

Bids will be let the end of April with June construction and completion mid-year 2010. They will plan the exhibit opening for a more opportune time e.g. during the regular visiting season vs. late fall/winter. A million dollars of the funding is from a private donation.

Radigan move to recommend approval of the plan as presented; Green seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Public Comment

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, **Green moved to adjourn; Hoy seconded.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.

Carol Garry,
Recording Secretary