

**ADA ACCESSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD
MINUTES
March 31, 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

Vice Chairperson Aldinger called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.
Board members present: Sarah Aldinger, John Faundeen, Joel Niemeyer, Melissa Radigan and Dennis Theel.
Board member(s) absent: Ryan Green and Doug Hoy
Staff present: Colwill and Garry
Guests present: Tory Miedema and Dave Fischer, Sioux Falls Parks & Recreation; Larry Crane, Perspective Architects; Brad Ludens, City Engineering; Eric Kritzmire, possible board member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Radigan moved to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2009, meeting; Faundeen seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Board's concerns with the access aisles and the drinking fountain at north Sherman Park have been addressed.

NEW BUSINESS

Jefferson Park – This is the final design phase, construction may be delayed until next year. This park is located on 39th Street between Holly and Jefferson Avenue. The initial public meetings were in 2003. This is basically a facelift; addressing public comments and staff suggestions.

Larry Crane is the architect and Brad Ludens is the project manager. The existing trees and surrounding amenities will be retained. The southeast corner is a play area that was installed within the last three years. It is a new ADA compliant structure. The surface material is wood fiber. A shelter and a central organizing element will be added. Accessible pathways will connect all of the elements and the outside corners. The existing ball field in the northeast corner will be changed over to green space and an upgraded ball field will be made larger and improved with a new backstop and surfacing material on the northwest side. It will be moved in some from the street. A practice play field will be added east of the ball field. A basketball court on the east end will be half court.

There is a drainage area that runs north to south just to the east of the play field. It basically divides the park in half. The drainage area will be changed to move it to the east more. Native plants will be used in this area due to the seasonal water retention.

All of the paths will be accessible as well as all of the park features. Connection points on the north end will line up with the sidewalk on the other side across 39th Street.

There are proposed curb cuts/ramps on the west and east side of the park. These do not line up with sidewalk across the street to the east (Jefferson) or west (Holly). What would the Board recommend? A problem to consider is a visually impaired person finding the detectable warning panel, crossing the street and not being able to connect to a sidewalk on the other side. This is even more worrisome on the Holly Avenue side due to increased traffic because of the traffic light at 41st Street.

There is no parking lot because it is a neighborhood park. It is possible to put a pad in the area in back of the curb to allow a van ramp to lower and have access to the sidewalk and from there access to the internal park pathways. Miedema would propose the same set up as McCart Fields. Of the two the Jefferson side would work better for a van ramp pad. Further discussion found that one on the north end at 39th Street would work the best; near the curb cut that is across from the sidewalk at Lyndale Avenue. Miedema will explore the possibility of putting two in that area.

Niemeyer asked about the benches and the surfacing at the ball field. These are existing benches used for the ball players. This is not a location where league or other regularly scheduled games will be held. It is more for neighborhood use and practice. He also asked about the drinking fountain. One is located near the shelter. It will be located near the intersection of the sidewalk coming from the play area and the shelter. It will be off the pedestrian route and connected to the route with hard surfacing.

Niemeyer move to recommend approval of the plan with the removal of the planned curb cuts/ramps on the south end of Holly and Jefferson Avenues, adding 1-2 concrete pads to accommodate van lifts for accessible parking on the north end along 39th Street ; Theel seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Parks ADA Transition Plan – Update – Dave Fischer

The transition plan began in 2002. Work has been completed at approximately 56 park and recreation sites. This includes pools, golf courses, parks, administrative offices, maintenance headquarters, athletic complexes and community centers for a total cost of \$1.8 million. The park transition plan is basically complete. It was set up for 5 years but took 7 years to complete. But the mission is not over. There is some work to do with the bike trail and final touch-ups at some park facilities.

As a spin off to the original transition plan, Parks has developed an internal document – Parks ADA Standard Operating Procedure. This document guides staff through ADA issues as they relate to parks and recreation. Park benches are a good example. 50% of the benches need to be accessible. From this requirement the department set up a plan to replace them as fixed benches as they wear out until the 50% criteria was reached. The document gives staff direction and an organized method to reach the requirements; a plan of action. Prior to the transition plan, ADA requirements weren't a primary concern when developing a new facility. It is now part of the thought process when new parks are being designed and has become a way of thinking with park staff, consultants and engineering.

Park ADA Transition Plan – Unfinished Business – Tory Miedema

The approach in the Transition Plan to bring the park facilities into compliance began by dividing the facility into 3 areas: architectural, civil (e.g. sidewalks), and operational - projects that parks operational staff could do without bidding it out. Additionally, some parks, mostly due to terrain grades, were not accessible so the dept. took action to be sure the programs offered at the inaccessible parks were offered at a facility that is accessible.

The architectural items and the civil items were determined, bid out, taken care of and crossed off the list. Operational items were not tracked as well. Colwill and Miedema will be reviewing the transition plan and going park by park to be sure they have all been completed. Initial meeting will be going through District 5 on April 27th 1-5pm.

At the end of the review process, all of the items that weren't completed will be put into one final project and put out for bid with the completion date late this year or early 2010. The operational items will be assigned to park staff to be completed. The ultimate goal is to be able to say the transition plan is complete.

There are some larger items that were not taken care of as a retrofit will be addressed through a separate CIP project, e.g. the Spellerberg bathhouse, Cherry Rock restrooms. These would have been more than just a retrofit so were put off until the facility was ready for replacement. Playgrounds were also addressed separately since that is a cyclical project; they are updated on a regular basis (4 -5 every other year.)

On another note, the playground replacement projects will include poured in place rubber surfacing instead of the wood fiber. The new surfacing costs more but the maintenance on the wood fiber would justify replacement.

Miedema stated that the ADA Accessibility Review Board has been a very useful tool when designing projects.

Recreation Trail Survey - Miedema

The recreation trail (a.k.a. bike trail) was not included in the transition plan. The park dept. intends to include funding in their budget to work on the trail. This year they will survey the trail to determine the areas that are in compliance and also note the areas that are out of compliance - grades which include running slope and cross slope. They plan to use the money previously budgeted to the transition plan for the trail improvements in conjunction with the CIP budget money. Every year they have budget to resurface segments of the trail. This project would be used to also address ADA accessibility issues on trail segments identified for the resurfacing program.. The whole trail can't be made accessible because of the terrain involved e.g. interstate bridges. But with the survey they have planned and the projects that will be identified based on the survey, certain areas will be able to be promoted as accessible and the inaccessible areas can be noted by difficulty and length for the trail user to determine how it would limit the access for them individually.

Fischer thanked the board for their guidance in the past. It has influenced how the department looks at accessibility when they design new park facilities.

Faundeen stated that the logical next step is to move past what is required by the ADA to incorporate the use of universal design into projects to make them accessible to all generations.

Public Comment

Fischer announced a project that will involve Game, Fish and Parks, the City Parks and Rec and a private contributor of land by the intersection of 12th Street and Tea Ellis Road. The land has ponds on it that will be stocked with trout.

Joel invited Eric Kritzmire to the meeting. Eric expressed his interest in joining the Board to replace one of the retiring members.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Carol Garry,
Recording Secretary