

**ADA ACCESSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD
MINUTES
August 31, 2010
Human Relations Conference Room
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 Hoy called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Board members present: Sarah Aldinger (10:20), Doug Hoy, Matt Cain (10:35), John Faundeen, Eric Kritzmire, and Denny Theel.

Board member(s) absent: Page Hudson

Staff present: Colwill and Garry

Guests present: Adam Weischedel, Sioux Falls Area Single Track; Chris Pierson, Sioux Falls Area Single Track; Jon Jacobson, Confluence, Tory Miedema, Sioux Falls Parks & Rec.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Theel moved to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2010, meeting; Kritzmire seconded. Faundeen moved to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2010, meeting; Theel seconded. Motions passed by unanimous vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Library renovation – Eastside emergency exits. The easiest solution suggested by the Library:

- Update the written procedures for evacuation of the building (fire, tornado, other emergencies.)
- Train staff on the new procedures and where to direct people who have accessibility issues during a building evacuation.
- Conduct annual or semi-annual fire drills using new evacuation procedures.

One thing we have going for us is that the “knox-box” is located on the east side of the building. At least one firefighter will have to go to the east side to get the keys. Hopefully they would notice a stranded person.

Update from Project Engineer Bandy:

Our survey crews have been unavailable to measure and draw up possible alternates for the accessible parking due to on-going construction. I still have it on the list. I have submitted the request regarding the auto door opener to the Library architect and engineer and have not received a response back from them. This is also on my follow-up list, but I won't have a definitive answer by the time of meeting.

Faundeen made a motion for the City to continue to examine options for accessibility of the emergency exit on the east side; Kritzmire seconded.

The Board would like to review the plan for rescuing anyone left outside the emergency exits. Theel feels they could have at least put in a ramp just for emergency use to allow for wheelchair users to get away from the building. Colwill suggested meeting with Project Manager Bandy before taking any further action.

NEW BUSINESS

Single Track Recreation Trail at Leaders Park – Chris Pierson - FAST

The planned recreation trail is located in Leaders Park – 6th Street & I-29. This area is an old drainage way that the Park Dept took over and made some improvements at the top near 6th Street. The only program in the park currently is a community garden plot in the level area at the top.

Conversations with FAST explored having a single track rec trail somewhere in the park system. Some requisites included hilly terrain, trees/obstructions. Leaders Park fit the profile. The group met with the neighborhood on two separate occasions. The neighbors like their nice, quiet park with an abundance of wild life. Parking was a concern and ADA issues were brought up.

FAST will construct the trails and maintain them. Additional amenities could be added like parking and restrooms if there proves to be a need.

The trails would primarily be used for biking though they can be used as walking/hiking trails or even bird watchers.

Single track is a narrow, 18 – 24”, unpaved trail – made from natural materials. Not at all like the paved bike trail. They've designed three separate trails – easy – near 6th Street and moves along behind Leadale Avenue; intermediate and expert. These last two level of trails will have obstacles in the paths. The easy trail is fairly gentle grade, just into the trees – good for kids.

The main entrance will be at the top of the park, near 6th Street & Leadale. The ultimate location will be determined after talking to the neighborhood and making any accommodations for ADA access. The secondary entrance is at the bottom of the park, off Rice Street. They plan to create about three miles of trail all together.

The Single Track group feels a lot of the users will bike to the park. There is also some on street parking. They are considering adding t's & l's to designate the parallel parking spaces. They are still considering parking options that fit the use and the neighborhood. Pierson has contacted IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association) about ADA regulations. Their opinion is that single track is not covered by the ADA at all. A US DOT/Federal Highway Administration website states: Recreational trails primarily designed and constructed for use by equestrians, mountain bicyclists, snowmobile users, or off-highway vehicle users, are exempt from accessibility requirements even though they have occasional pedestrian use.

(http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/guidance_accessibility.htm)

Miedema wanted to know what the Board's thoughts were regarding accessibility to these proposed trails. With the narrow paths, steep terrain and wooded area it really isn't feasible to make the trails accessible. Is there a way to make any of it accessible?

Kritzmire suggested putting an accessible path to the beginning of the easy trail to allow wheelchair users access to bring their kids here to ride the beginner's trail and be able to watch them. Miedema asked what type of materials would be used to create the accessible path and overlook area. Kritzmire suggested using crushed gravel for the path and adding a pad in the parking area to put a van lift down.

Faundeen asked what kind of signage will be used so users will be aware of the changes in difficulty. Pierson explained that there will be a kiosk at the trail head with trail rules and detailing the trails and their difficulty. Colwill stated it is important for users to know at what point the trail is inaccessible and where it gets more difficult. This would hopefully prevent people from getting to a point where it is too difficult to get out. A sign at the kiosk stating the trails are not ADA accessible was suggested. Pierson added that there will be signage on the trail noting the difficulty level, similar to ski trails. It doesn't appear there would be any way to make the area accessible to people with other disabilities, like visual. The concept of single trail is basically a single trail and with the abundance of trees and obstacles it wouldn't work to even lead a visually impaired person along the trails.

The hiking trails at Great Bear provide some accessibility and could be considered an alternate program for people with disabilities who want to experience nature trails. The Outdoor Campus is another accessible alternative.

Aldinger moved to recommend approval of the project's plans with the addition of including: signage advising the trails are not ADA accessible using the appropriate signage including Braille; an accessible path to a pad/overlook area near the easy trail, and an accessible parking pad for van wheelchair lift in the parking area. Theel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum – Jon Jacobson - Confluence

The Parks Dept has been working on an arboretum site for a number of years. This site is across the road from Arrowhead Park. The newly formed Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum Foundation is committed to raising half the cost of construction for the project.

Phase I – This has been scaled back to align with the funding available at this time. The Perry Nature Area is owned by Minnehaha County and part is City owned land. Originally the agreement was for the County to hand the land over to the City, but this has not happened. The County land will remain with the County but the City will be the caretaker. The master plan was developed over ten years ago. This phase involves \$600,000 in construction. As the first phase the Foundation would like to develop an small 'microcosm' of what the overall arboretum will be. An arboretum is a place to go for passive recreation – learn about trees, plants, nature, etc. In addition, this site is the former location of East Sioux Falls. East Sioux Falls was a community at the turn to the 20th century. It was a quarry town with immigrant stone cutters. So along with the nature part of the arboretum, a historical site can also be explored.

The area is bordered by Hwy 42, and when the road is reconstructed a link under the roadway to Arrowhead Park will be created. An old railroad bed runs through the park and is used as a walking trail. The area is unimproved - no toilet facilities, running water- because there is no water service to the area presently. However, in the corner of the parking lot a small fenced-in screen structure where some portable toilets will be located; one will be accessible. The current access road and parking area are gravel.

The first phase consists of three primary elements. The first element is a new entrance into the arboretum. It is a paved, split median entrance where the current entrance is located, but aligned better for safety reasons. The access road and first phase of the parking lot will be paved. The lot will have the required number of accessible parking spaces. The tree education garden and the stone cutter's garden are part of the first phase, too. The tree education garden is a place to learn about the trees in the arboretum and the stone cutter's garden will be a place to learn about the history of East Sioux Falls.

The south end of the parking lot will be a porous concrete pavement which allows the water to run through the pavement to the sub grade where it will drain into a rain garden. The rest of the parking will be asphalt. The accessible parking will be closest to the primary entrance. A temporary orientation center will be located at this end of the parking lot until future phases of the project provides a permanent visitor's center. The surfacing in the area of the temporary orientation center will be decomposed granite. This is not a pavement, it is temporary and it is an aggregate. It is applied in layers and is as hard as a rock. This is a test spot for this type of pavement. If it works well it will be used for other parts of the arboretum where conventional pavement won't work. Hoy expressed concern with the durability of this product. This pavement is used in similar applications, but this small area will test to see if it will be successful in this application.

The pathway to the stone cutter's garden is concrete. There is an existing shelter which will connect to the pathway. The tree education area will be concrete path. The old

railway bed will ultimately tie into the City's bike trail. Future phases will challenge accessibility as the terrain will be not be as level.

There will be interpretive signage in the area describing the various features of the park. Jacobson asked the Board for their recommendations for the type of signage. They plan for it to be at table height or on a vertical surface. Is Braille appropriate in this venue? There is also signage identifying trees and some may be off the accessible paths.

No one can think of any other park where interpretive signage is used that Braille is part of the signage. Other options – in the future when more funding is available- could be headsets to allow listening to an explanation of the area or nature guides/docents that give tours with audio descriptive /explanation. The education committee of the Arboretum's board is motivated to make this an educational experience and making this accommodation in the future phases is a good possibility.

Kritzmire asked that the pathways be level with the surrounding ground to avoid a bump on/off the pavement.

This phase of the construction will start this fall and continue through next spring. Jacobson asked for any feedback once the first phase is complete so they can adapt for the future phases. Future phases will also be brought to the Board for review, but first phase feedback could help in the planning of future phases. The Park Dept will let the Board know when the construction of this phase is complete so they can have a walk through to get a more visual review of the project and maybe provide the requested feedback to improve future phase plans.

Kritzmire moved to recommend approval of the Phase I plans with consideration given in future planning to include some accommodation for visually impaired either with adaptive equipment or guided tours. Faundeen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Harmodon Park grandstands – Tory Miedema

The Sioux Empire Baseball Association (SEBA) will design and build this project and gift it to the City once it is completed. It will be approximately a \$250,000 gift. They are required to go through the typical plan review and that's why this Board is reviewing.

The project will involve constructing grandstands and a building under the grandstands for team locker rooms and an umpire area. This will only be used during SEBA sponsored events, no public access. University of SF may contract to use it for their games. This upgrade will allow SEBA to secure more ball tournaments here. They need 350-400 designated seats to bring in the additional tournaments.

This is on the baseball side of Harmodon Park, located on field one – the Championship field. All of the concrete existing between the restroom and the backstop will be

removed. An existing ten row bleacher on site will be moved to the outside of the grandstand along with another ten row bleacher from another field that will be moved to the other side of the grandstand to provide more seating than the existing seating. Making certain there was room to get in and out of the concession stands, dugouts and restrooms was a main focus of the Park Dept's review.

The proposed layout of the building has entering through the locker rooms. There are about 20 lockers used just for games, no long term storage. The restroom features will be ADA Accessible to allow for the use by a coach, player or umpire with a disability. Aldinger pointed out a toilet partition door may not meet ADA requirements for pull side clearance.

The grandstand will have seats all the way to the top with a press box on top. The press box will be wired to allow for running of the scoreboard, but will also be portable to be able to run it from below. The PA system is also portable so if a score keeper or announcer is physically unable to access the press box at the top of the grandstand, they can be accommodated with the portable systems.

The ADA viewing area is located in the front row. There is a ramp (8% slope) on the main entrance side with access to the ADA seating. The accessible seating is recessed so the 6'2" walkway doesn't encroach. The ADA viewing areas are marked with the universal accessibility icon.

Construction is to start this week with the project scheduled to be completed in time for spring 2011 games.

Faundeen moved to recommend approval of the plan with the note to review the door approach in the locker room. Aldinger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Garry