

**ADA ACCESSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD
MINUTES
September 28, 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, Doug Hoy, John Faundeen, Page Hudson, Eric Kritzmire, and Denny Theel.

Board member(s) absent: Matt Cain

Staff present: Colwill and Garry

Guests present: Tory Miedema, SF Parks & Rec; Brad Ludens, City Engineering Dept; and Chad Kucker and Jessica Light , Confluence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Aldinger moved to approve the minutes from the August 31, 2010, meeting; Kritzmire seconded. Motions passed by unanimous vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Hoy asked if there was any follow up on the library discussions. Staff hasn't contacted the project engineer to schedule a meeting yet.

NEW BUSINESS

Riverfront Greenway Project – Chad Kucker/Tory Miedema

The project covers the greenway from 6th Street to 8th Street. This is the first step in the Riverfront Greenway master plan. The downtown stretch is the most populated and popular stretches of the greenway system. This project is being spurred by development in the area. Some promises were made by the City when the area was being planned for development post the Zip Feed building demolition. The project begins with the replacement of the railroad bridge in the area with a pedestrian bridge. The goal is to

make the river an amenity and make the area more accessible and draw people to the downtown area.

The north end of the project is 6th Street and the southern boundary is 8th Street. The area includes the Cherapa place, the Country Inn & Suites, the River Tower Apartments and Raven Industries. The bulk of the project will be on the east bank of the river. The existing bike trail will be rebuilt to turn it into more of an urban river walk. The west side will include the area south of the proposed replacement pedestrian bridge to 8th Street where the sidewalk and lighting will be replaced.

A big focus of the project is the accessibility issues of this area of the project. There are steep slopes from both 6th & 8th Street to the existing trail. There are steps from 8th Street that leads through Country Inn & Suites' patio area where it ramps down to the trail. The project will put in a sloped walk (<5%) to the trail from 6th Street. From the 8th Street side there will be a ramp with handrails that will lead down to the riverfront. There will also be stairs leading to the area from the patio area at Cherapa and a set of stairs leading down from 8th Street that will go directly to the trail without having to cross Country Inn's patio. Future development will include a ramp on the south side of 8th Street.

An amphitheater is planned for the sloped lawn area in front of Cherapa. This area has sloped seating on the lawn with accessible benches at the front – designated by ADA tiles. The grade change is steep enough to allow for line of sight from the rows behind this area. Small events are proposed for this area. The area should seat 100-200 people. Kritzmire asked if there was access to the top of the amphitheater using a wheelchair. Future plans are to expand Cherapa patio and this can be addressed at that time. An underground power line, just 2' below ground is a barrier for creating access with the current project. The Cherapa patio is accessible from the top and could be used.

Tall piers with the history of the river/area will line the walkway in the area of the amphitheater. There will be a stepped edge area along this area which can be used as seating. The edge of the river will be lined with an 18" wall from 6th Street Bridge to the proposed pedestrian bridge. Plans are to begin this phase of the project this fall/winter with the construction the dams and retaining walls.

The trail will be widened in front of Country Inn & Suites, from 8'to 16'wide trail. (The wider width is appreciated.) A new bridge will be built over the drainage way. All of the concrete surfaces will be broomed finish. The plaza area will have color added.

On the west bank there is a walkway that is too steep and will be replaced with a ramp with handrails, the guard rail will be replaced on the overlook.

The pedestrian bridge will be cast in place concrete with railings are horizontal metal rails with a 4' overlook that can be used as a viewing point and still allow pedestrian traffic to flow.

Property owners have been very cooperative and generous with what it takes to make the area accessible.

Secondary bike routes will be incorporated to allow for bypassing some of the busier sections. The old railroad beds are planned to be utilized. Signage will be used to direct through traffic to these secondary routes to avoid events taking place in this area.

The next section will be from 6th Street to Falls Park; it is in the CIP for next year. The funding (\$1.8 million) for this section has been earmarked from the environmental fund created by the John Morrell fine when they were found to be in violation of environmental laws. The project and available funding are a close match. The use of the funds has to be approved by the courts and some other county governments that have to approve.

The 6th Street Bridge will have ceramic tiling to improve the appearance of the underside of the bridge. The 8th Street Bridge will be replaced in the near future so they will just be up grading the lighting. The area under the bridges will be improved to help eliminate mud and gravel washing over the walkway when it rains.

The Schoeneman's site is being developed now and the developers are pressing the City to improve this section.

Plans need to be approved by FEMA. The project is lowering the level of the river. There are plans to widen the east side to allow for fill on the west side to provide room for a walkway along Ravens. The plans for the whole downtown stretch have been submitted for permitting.

Theel moved to recommend approval of the plan. Kritzmire seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Garry