

**ADA ACCESSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD
MINUTES
March 27, 2012
Commission Room, 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 Hoy called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Board members present: Sarah Aldinger, Roseann Burkett, Helen Hartmann, Doug Hoy, and Eric Kritzmire.

Board member(s) absent: Matt Cain and Page Hudson

Staff present: Colleen Moran, City ADA Coordinator and Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guests present: Mike Bassing, City Engineering/Project Manager; Tory Miedema, Parks & Rec; Beth Guenther, Koch Hazard Architects; Jon Brown, Stockwell Engineers; Mark Aspaas, Architecture Inc.; and Jon Jacobson, Confluence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Hartman moved to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2012, meeting
Kritzmire seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Diversion Channel Fishing Access– Tory Miedema and Jon Brown

The location of this project is just off 60th Street North, just north of the airport and west of Minnesota Avenue along the Sioux River diversion channel. As part of the Park's river recreation plan, they are bringing more access to fishing in Sioux Falls. It is a joint project involving the City Parks and Rec Dept. and the SD Game, Fish, and Parks Department. There is currently a corridor study of 60th Street North being done.

Currently people drive into the area to fish. The project will add access roads, walkways and fishing piers. There is an ADA accessible path adjacent to the river with spurs that provide access to the river bank with ten fishing piers at different locations. There will be a canoe launch near the opening of the diversion channel. An existing 'borrow pit' will provide additional fishing opportunities. This will be closed off at the east end and will be stocked with fish. There are two accessible fishing piers planned for this area.

This project was planned for a couple years ago, but the money was used to fix some problems at Family Park (12th & Ellis Road – urban fishery) instead. Future work on 60th Street North will require raising the road, the river bridge, and railroad tracks and part of the park land will be needed to tie in the slopes coming off the road. Currently Parks and Rec is looking to get the master plan in place and approved, so that everything will be in place for the environmental assessment. They hope to get the project back into the CIP within the next couple of years. Family Park is a bigger focus right now.

Moran asked about the accessibility of the canoe launch. It will be similar to a regular boat ramp. The dock will be alongside the ramp that you can back a trailer into the water. The dock is accessible with a path from the ramp to the dock. The slope of the ramp would be steeper than 5% but the accessible path would not be that steep.

Kritzmire moved to recommend approval of the master plan; Aldinger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Prairie Green Clubhouse – Tory Miedema and Mark Aspaas

A new clubhouse will be built at Prairie Green that will accommodate the increasing number of rounds going through it. The old clubhouse will be moved to Kuehn Park. The Parks Dept. is trying to raise the caliber to a championship course.. The front of the golf course is being reoriented to make it more inviting and accessible. They may switch the nines, starting hole number one across the street.

The design is not final yet; this is the latest revision.

There will be two entrances to the main level. The main entrance comes off the parking lot at a 4.5% slope. Because the design includes a walk-out lower level for cart storage, there is a challenge to do that and still maintain an accessible route into and around the clubhouse. The cart paths will ramp down to the lower level elevation.

Aldinger asked if the accessible parking is existing. It is, but will probably be relocated once the plans are final. The spaces in the northwest corner would be a good place, but it would require an extension of the sidewalk along the front of the spaces. That location would be close to the main entrance and provide access without having to cross any vehicle traffic paths.

The two accessible paths leading from the parking lot to the clubhouse are ramped with landings. The main path is 4.5% and the secondary path is 5%. The secondary path leads to a wraparound deck with an entrance into the clubhouse on the east side.

The cart traffic will be kept on the north side of the building to avoid congestion in the front of the clubhouse. There will be a path for carts to be able to load and unload golf clubs and still keep them from in front of the clubhouse.

The main level will have the kitchen and pro shop. The east door off the ramp leads into the pro shop. The multi-purpose room is the area used mostly for dining. This has access to the outside deck – opposite the entrance. There will also be accessible locker areas and restrooms. An office area is just off the front entrance. There will be an elevator and stairway to access the lower level. A door on the west leads out to the practice/driving range.

The lower level is for cart storage. There will also be a training/practice area, storage area and mechanical room in the lower level

Hoy asked about the activator for the main doors and if the east door will be automatic. Both doors will be sliding doors that will be sensor activated. Kritzmire asked about the door on the east side of the dining room; it should have an activator as it will probably get a lot of use coming in and out to the deck. The outside grill will have an accessible path to it.

Moran asked about the doorways in the restrooms/locker rooms. Doors were discussed including not having doors at the entrance of the restrooms, having activator operated doors, or propping them open. There is enough open area for a side approach if no opener is used; just need to be aware of the door's weight to meet maximum door opening pressure. The locker room showers will be roll-in with a fold-down seat. There will be accessible lockers available at an accessible height. Hand dryers/towel dispensers will be recessed. Most of the accessible details will be reviewed during the plan review process. Moran wanted to make everyone aware of the requirements now, so we don't have to go back later and fix something. Hoy asked if the emergency exits can get everyone including wheelchair users out and away from the building. Wheelchair users will be able to get out and away from the building the same as everyone else. Exits are either on grade or can use the ramp on the deck.

Plans are to have a neighborhood meeting in the next few weeks, so the City Council can approve allowing bids to be taken in July 2012 with project completion in a year from now – spring 2013.

Kritzmire moved to recommend approval with consideration made to installing an activator button on the east deck entrance, making sure restrooms and locker rooms will have accessible doors, hand dryers/trash receptacles installed so they don't protrude into the accessible route; and installation of a fold-down bench in the showers. Hartmann seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Other details like lowered coat hooks on the bathroom stall doors and accessible changing tables can be pointed out during the detailed plan review.

Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum Phase II – Tory Miedema, Jon Jacobson – site work

This project will bid within the next month or two with construction this summer finishing by late fall.

First phase has been completed; this is the second phase. Some of the funds are provided by the city's CIP budget and part from public fundraising.

Focus for phase two will be setting the foreground of the education center and developing the formal garden area. Paved pathways (eight to ten feet wide) will lead to the main entrance to the education center. The site is situated so the building will have a walk-out lower level.

Due to this, there is a fair amount of slope change from the front of the building to the back area. There will be steps on the north side of the building, allowing direct access to the outside patio area. Along the north is the primary trail – the accessible path (six feet wide) that leads to the other parts of the garden. The path winds its way from the education center out to the wedding lawn at the northeast end. The garden areas will have paved pathways around them. The entire area will be enclosed with eight-foot-tall deer fencing.

There is a sliding gate that closes off the entrance to the park at night. The back patio is a paved area (concrete). The table/seating in the area will meet the required amount of accessible seating. Free standing table/chairs are more flexible than the fixed-table seats for accessibility purposes. There is a lawn area off the patio – essentially a flat space that is accessed by the sloped walk to the lawn area.

The knot garden has paved wide pathways around the perimeter with benches – standard six foot with accessible seating areas adjacent to them. The interior pathways (four feet wide) of the garden will be made from decomposed granite – a packed aggregate that allows water to drain through, but the surface remains packed without ruts, etc. The wedding lawn is an open lawn area. The paved path circles around the edge and the lawn area itself slopes toward the far end creating a stage area with steps leading to the top.

Hoy asked how well the decomposed granite holds up. Aldinger said it has been used successfully on other projects and Miedema agreed. Aldinger asked if there needs to be landing or rest areas at certain points along the accessible pathways due to the length of the paths. Jacobson said he will check the new guidelines that went into effect on March 15, 2012, to see if they are required.

Future plans have an extension to the parking area to the east with a drop off area accessing the formal garden area. It will be a future alternate accessible route. Eventually a water feature will be added along with a children's play area. Aldinger asked if the water features will be accessible. Jacobson said they will make sure that is addressed when those features are set to go in. These and other future phases will be brought to the board.

Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum Education Center – Beth Guenther

The building has two levels – a deck is off the back of the main level and the back patio is off the lower level. There is a side patio with an entrance into the building that is on grade.

The building has a multipurpose/classroom off the vestibule on the left. The doors to the classroom open off of the vestibule – separate from the main entrance doors that enter into the lobby/reception area. On the right after you pass the reception area is the entrance into the school room. The school room will be an exhibit; set up like an old one- room schoolhouse. There is a space for an office off the reception area at the back of the building. There is a space for future elevator installation. Due to the limited space, the future elevator will be a limited use/limited application elevator. Back on the left side of the building is a hall that has the stairway to the lower level and restrooms and a custodial space. Along the hallway is a kitchenette – can be used as a catering kitchen. At the end of the hallway is the on-grade doorway to the outside patio space that accesses the main pathway to the lower level or the rest of the park.

The lower level holds future space for events. At this phase, this space would only be used as overflow space in case of inclement weather. A future lobby is planned for the middle. To the south will be mechanical space. Restrooms may be added as an alternate at this phase along the back wall, which would have access to the back patio. The restrooms will be roughed-in at this stage, so it will be ready for future installation if not done this year.

The education center will not be opened all of the time. It will open for reservations and during special events at the arboretum. The Arboretum Society will be staffing the building, and funds are not available for fulltime staff at this time.

Aldinger asked why the elevator will not be installed at this time. Miedema explained that the lower level will not be used much right away, and there is an accessible path outside to the lower level. Aldinger did not think that under Title II that the City would be exempt from installing an elevator in the building and a limited use/limited application one since it is a brand new building. Moran agrees that Title II applies here. Guenther will go back and look at it again and do what needs to be done.

The deck is wood frame. There is a door from the deck to the building and will require a variance from the county to be able to lock it. There is no direct access from the deck to the ground, but someone could climb the structure and gain access through that door if it can't be locked.

Main level evacuation would be through the on-grade doors on the north and west. The lower level has four doors - one on the south and three sets of doors on the east side out onto the back patio.

Hoy asked about the door activator. They will be on a post right at the end of the door swing on the outside. Those on the inside need more research on where to locate them.

Hoy asked about Braille signage for the rooms. Aldinger stated that the ADA doesn't require a Braille directory. Hartmann added that people she knows that use canes as visual aids would have a sighted person with them especially if they are new to the venue. Also, if the building is open, staff will be present to help anyone find their way.

Aldinger moved to recommend approval with a clear note of an expectation that a full access/use elevator be added at this phase and due consideration made to the installation of the door activators. Kritzmire seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Downtown River Greenway – Phase II – Jon Jacobson

Phase two starts south of the Eighth Street bridge opposite where they are tearing down the River Ramp. The focus of this stage is accessibility and setting up the foreground for the new development site. Current access is a metal stairway from the bridge down to the greenway. New access will be a long, ten-foot-wide ramp with handrails that connects to the greenway path along the river. There will be adjacent stairs that lead to the plaza area halfway down the elevation to the greenway. Both paths meet on an overlook landing where there are stairs on the north side that lead to the greenway, and the ramp continues south to meet up with the greenway further down. The pathway (bike trail) along the river will be sixteen feet wide. The river wall will be rebuilt, and a small plaza with interpretive plaques similar to those in phase one will also be built. The upper plaza has plans for a water feature - a series of jets of bubbles that come out of the pavement and get recycled. There will be benches along the back wall of the plaza area with accessible seating plaques/tiles adjacent to them.

Environmentally this is a horrible site and not knowing what will be discovered during cleanup could be more than budgeted. This makes the water feature on the upper plaza an alternate budget item.

Additional notes: Jacobson will check the spacing of the water feature to make sure it is accessible to wheelchair users. Hartmann suggested that changing the color of the landings would make it easier for the visually impaired to know where the stair ends and the landing begins.

Kritzmire moved to recommend approval with consideration be given to using different colored concrete at the landings. Burkett seconded. Motions passed by unanimous vote.

Time ran out before getting to the final project on the agenda. It was put last just in case this would happen. The Board can review it at its next regular meeting.

The Board will meet on April 11th at the Main Library, Conference Room A, at 2:30 – 5pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Aldinger moved to adjourn, Burkett seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm

Respectfully submitted by Carol Garry