

**ADA ACCESSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD  
MINUTES  
July 29, 2014  
Commission Room, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Burkett called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Board members present: Roseann Burkett, Helen Hartmann, Troy Osterloo, and Eric Kritzmire

Board member(s) absent: Doug Hoy, Patty Monson, and Matt Pruner

Staff present: Colleen Moran, Human Relations Manager/ADA Coordinator, Carol Garry, Human Relations Technician and Lacey Farabee, Human Relations Volunteer

Guests present: Tory Miedema, SF Park & Rec; Amy Remmerde and David Locke with Stockwell Engineers; and Terry Paulsen, NCCPVA Government Relations Director.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Kritzmire moved to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2014, meeting; Osterloo seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The last meeting had a review of the sidewalk poetry for the Cathedral Historic District and Hartman was going to check to see if imprinting cement sidewalks would be a barrier to the visually impaired who use canes as mobility aids. She asked Chelle Hart to check out the imprinting at Veteran's Memorial Park and Hart reported back that did not see it being a barrier.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Falls Park West – Tory Miedema

Earlier versions of the master plan for Falls Park West have changed since it was initially presented to the ADA Accessibility Review Board back in January 2004. New plans have been developed by Stockwell Engineers. The concepts being looked at involve creating a performance venue as well as a neighborhood park. Because of the contaminated area on the site, the new plans keep most of the development out of that area because of the costs to remove the contaminants. Phase I of the plan is scheduled for 2015 (parking), Phase II in 2017 (southern half), and Phase III in 2019 (northern half). Phase II and III could be brought back for the Board's review as those plans become finalized.

The components and current design of the Falls Park West Master Plan originated with the 2025 downtown design plan's public input process. They took into consideration the public's vision for this park.

The site is contaminated so anything needing footings (digging into the ground) greatly adds to the costs. With that in mind the performance area of the park was moved to the south end versus the north end to avoid the contaminated area and allow for footings for the stage area, etc.

Along Phillips Avenue, seventy angled parking spaces will be added to the east side, similar to what has been added to the west side of Phillips. An eight to ten foot wide side walk will be back of the curb. The required number of ADA accessible parking stalls will be included. The existing sidewalk will be moved back to allow for the addition of the parking spaces and some light poles will be relocated. The new sidewalk will be very close to where the existing one is located. Concern about storm sewer inlets and manholes are not great because the sidewalk can easily curve away any of these barriers.

The main paving material will be a pink-colored concrete, similar to the existing path that leads to the main Falls Park area. These paths will be twelve feet wide to allow adequate space for pedestrian traffic and be able to accommodate vendor space at events. The Board expressed their concern for using any paving material that has texture. A smooth surface is better for wheelchair users so they are not jostled around traveling over the surface – at times this can cause muscle spasms. These paths would more likely be used by people using mobility aids or even those pushing strollers as the grassy area would be harder to push over.

A major need identified from the 2025 plan input is for a public restroom in this area – one that's close to downtown and connected to Falls Park. The public restroom will be in conjunction with the performance venue and the urban tree grove. The urban tree grove is a hardscape – similar to an urban plaza. The hardscape materials will be mostly concrete with some pervious concrete to allow water and air to circulate to the tree roots. There will be adequate space between to accommodate equipment moving through the area as well as individuals who use mobility aids. Specialty paving will be incorporated as accents in this area. The specialty paving will be colored concrete, stamped colored concrete or some type of paver system – nothing has been decided

yet but will be something to make it stand out from the colored concrete. All the sidewalks around the perimeter and that crisscross the site will be colored concrete and the grade/cross slope will meet the ADA requirements.

The stage will be elevated to allow maximum views. The stage will have ramps for accessibility. The green space north of the stage will be wrapped with gabion seat walls. The seat walls allow for informal seating along the sidewalks and define the space.

The flow of the sidewalks was designed to mimic the flow of the Big Sioux River and the park has forms of downtown Sioux Falls that define the space. The avenues of downtown and pedestrian crossings over the river bridges are mimicked in the angled crossings over the turf area. These crossings will be some type of paver system. They will be defined by rail lines to tie the history of the site to the design.

The gabion seat walls will be made from a structural steel basket filled with material found in the area – Sioux quartzite rock, items from the former salvage yard (parts of cars) - artifacts. The walls will be capped with wood seating system which will mimic railroad tracks tying back to the history of the rails running through here. There will be room for wheelchair seating designated by tiles with the universal symbol.

Fourth Street is planned to go through for a future connection to the Sioux Steel property. Fourth Street will be constructed but will not be open until the Sioux Steel property is developed.

Moving further north, the green space is the gathering space for performances. Near the Third Street connection, a pedestrian crossing will cross Phillips and a concrete boardwalk system will be built over the existing storm water overland flow system. At most the boardwalk system will need to be elevated thirty inches. Future plans would develop the Third Street boardwalk area to the greenway system and incorporate dining/seating/gathering area.

Past this area the park widens and also moves up in elevation. There will be tiered quartzite boulders to define the elevation changes – mimics the upper falls. These tiered 'walls' will create flat turf area that can be used as an informal amphitheater with views toward the south performance area or a stage in the boardwalk area. In this area the sidewalk will connect to the existing sidewalk that leads into the upper falls park area.

The green space in front of the stage will be field turf (artificial grass) which will allow for heavy use of the area during the summer and allow flooding for an ice rink. The drainage space needed under the field turf will allow equipment that can chill the space to keep the ice during the warm spells that can occur during the winter. The restroom building will have a warming house and ice skate rental. The stage area will have heating units in the canopy and with some umbrella heaters combined to create a warm, winter gathering space. The Winter Wonderland that's been developed in Falls Park will continue into this area to flow into the downtown area.

Columns with information about the area will be scattered throughout the area/park and will be tied into the design of the welcoming arch that extends over Phillips Avenue. Hartman asked if the information signage could be made audible for those with vision impairments.

The historical lights that are currently in the park will be incorporated into the rest of the area along with accent lighting (up lighting trees/landscape lighting). A LED lighting system in the gabion seat walls under the cap is being considered. This would define the wall and provide light for traveling the walkway at night.

A dog walking area will more likely be added on the east side of the park near the east side entrance.

There is still no sidewalk from Phillips Avenue that leads into the park; you have to walk in the roadway. It had been part of the 2004 Master Plan which didn't progress mainly due to obtaining additional property to straighten the road. Miedema will look into it.

Hartman questioned why some of the steps in main Falls Park have paint indicating beginning and ending step and some don't have it. The paint helps those with vision impairments identify stairs. Miedema asked if different colored concrete works as well. They could incorporate that into future construction or repairs and avoid frequent painting.

**Kritzmire made a motion to recommend approval of the Falls Park Master Plan – and specifically Phase I (parking, and sidewalk/utility relocation). Hartman seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Hartman brought up a concern about the quartzite stairs at Terrace Park. She wondered if they could be re-surface so they are more level without sharp points sticking up. Miedema reported that they are currently reviewing the upper Terrace Park master plan and most of these stairways are a part of this section of the park. One of the main issues is that they are historical. Maintenance of them is a tough task for the park caretakers because of the weeds that grow in the spaces among other issues. They are working with the neighborhood and the department has been strongly encouraged to keep/maintain as much as possible. A possible solution is installing more direct paths to the different park features with a more acceptable surface. The master plan will be brought to the Board for input before the final plans are made.

Burkett commented on the progress with Lyons Park improvements. Kritzmire added his kudos for Pasley Park.

Kritzmire has an issue with Ticket Master/SMG regarding accessible seating at the events center and would like to meet with them at a Board meeting.

Terry Paulsen – Terry wanted to know what recourse does he or the people he is advocating for have to pursue when the businesses he has contacted about ADA violations don't respond or don't comply with their requests/concerns regarding lack of accessible parking or proper signage or objects in the access aisles or accessible space. Moran said that complaints can be filed with the Human Relations office or Building Services can contact the business about a code violation.

Paulsen has been approached about bringing legislation to the state government to have stickers on gas pumps detailing how to get assistance in pumping gas for individuals who are unable to do it themselves. He would anticipate support from the Board. The sticker will have the universal symbol and a phone number to call for assistance. More to come once the legislative session convenes.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Having no further business Kritzmire moved to adjourn, Hartman seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Carol Garry