

**ADA ACCESSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD
MINUTES
February 28, 2017.
Commission Room, 1st Floor City Hall
10:15 A.M.**

Board members present: Roseann Burkett, Helen Hartmann, Troy Osterloo, Patti Monson, Eric Kritzmire, Matt Pruner, and Paul Korn

Board member(s) absent: None

Staff present: Colleen Moran, Assistant City Attorney/ADA Coordinator; Jennifer Tuttle, Human Relations Specialist

Guests present: Shannon Verhey, City of Sioux Falls Public Works, Engineering Division; Wes Phillips, City of Sioux Falls Public Works, Engineering Division

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Eric Kritzmire called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion and a second were made to approve the January 31, 2017 minutes. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Helen Hartmann asked Shannon Verhey to check if the plans for the new administration building and updating of VanEps Park would include the installation of handrails on the steps leading to VanEps Park. Verhey indicated he would check with the architects and provide an answer.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Amendments to Sidewalk Ordinances and Engineering Design Standards

Shannon Verhey provided information to the board regarding the engineering division's proposal for updated engineering standards for accessible sidewalks. This proposal calls for creating a new chapter to the engineering standards and will provide guidance on the Americans with Disabilities Act accessible sidewalk requirements. In short, the engineering division is formalizing its current practices/standards.

Verhey reported that he had previously presented the proposed standards to the Infrastructure Advisory Review Board (IRAB); the Home Builders Association (HBA), and the Land Use Committee of the Sioux Falls City Council. IRAB approved the proposal. After meetings and discussions, the HBA also indicated it would support the proposal. The Land Use Committee requested that the engineering department present the information at the City Council's Informational Meeting, which Verhey will do.

Verhey explained that when considering street construction, the engineering division does not just look at streets for vehicle travel, but looks at the streets, sidewalks, curbs, and curb ramps for pedestrian travel needs as well. The updated standards will assist in making sure pedestrian travel is considered and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. For instance, a five-foot passing zone is required every 200 feet in areas with sidewalks that are only four feet wide. This width of sidewalk is generally found in residential areas. After consulting with the HBA, it was agreed that the passing zone could be placed at a residence's driveway. Thus, adding no additional cost to homeowners. Also, the City is moving to the requirement of dual curb ramps when possible. The new design standards will provide greater detail on its plans, including clarification of curb ramps and detectable warning panel installation to ensure builders are aware of the requirements and follow them. The standards also provide updated information regarding detectable warning panels at railroad crossings.

Verhey reported that the engineering division is also proposing changes to the sidewalk ordinances found in Chapter 96 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Among other things, the proposed amendments clarify inspection requirements and clarify that a building permit includes a sidewalk permit.

City's Barrier Removal Program

Wes Phillips, from the engineering division, provided information to the board regarding the City's barrier removal program. This program removes barriers that would prevent individuals with disabilities to be able to travel on sidewalks because of a lack of curb cuts and/or ramps. For the past several years, the City has been aggressively addressing all ramps. Since 2008, the City has installed approximately 2755 curb ramps. In addition, at the end of the 2016 construction season, the City had removed all barriers on roads that were deemed to be in good condition. The majority of barriers remaining are those that will be removed with upcoming road projects.

Board Action

After discussion, Eric Kritzmire moved to recommend support of the proposed changes to the design standards and ordinances. Troy Osterloo seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Board members also voiced appreciation for the City's barrier removal program, and the City's commitment to following the ADA standards and its efforts in making travel more accessible.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Disclaimer: The ADA Accessibility Review Board is a board of community members 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.

Respectfully submitted by Colleen Moran