

**ADA ACCESSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD
MINUTES
March 25, 2008
Human Relations Conference Room, First 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

Chairperson Niemeyer called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.
Board members present: Sarah Aldinger, Ryan Green, Doug Hoy, Joel Niemeyer, John Faundeen, and Melissa Radigan. Board member(s) absent:
Staff present: Munce and Garry
Guests present: Denny Theel, recently appointed to the ADA ARB (appointment not official until the end of the month), Rod Harms, City Engineering; Tory Miedema, Parks and Rec; Liz Squyer and Leslie Clark, Architecture Inc; Craig Roy, Water's Edge Aquatic Design; Paul Korn, Sayre Associates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Green moved to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2008, meeting, Hoy seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The Board wanted to be certain the roll call from the February meeting was corrected. Staff determined that the corrected minutes were sent out.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Drake Springs Pool – The pool will be built in Nelson Park to replace the Drake Springs pool. It will be located across Fairfax Avenue to the north. Construction includes parking and new pools. A new 5' sidewalk will be created along Fairfax from Cliff and 10th Street.

Munce asked about the status of existing drop curb at the two intersections (both E. 10th Street and the Cliff Avenue intersections with Fairfax); this will need to be checked out and appropriate action taken. In most instances, we would wait for a street project to encompass these curb cuts, but since there will be children from the neighborhoods accessing the sidewalks it should be done with this project.

There are two access points off of Fairfax Avenue, one is entrance/exit and the other is exit only. There is an unloading zone for dropping off passengers – 70-80' long allows 3-4 cars access- with a drop curb to allow ease of unloading passengers. Munce asked about intersection of the sidewalk and the center driveway; is the 2% cross slope exceeded? Green stated it would be better to have the sidewalk go straight across instead of veering off towards the driveway approach – similar to the other driveway.

There are three pedestrian routes into the pool site. One is located along the east side of the parking lot and runs up to the bathhouse. Another runs through the middle of the site adjacent to the parking lot entrance and the final is adjacent to the parking on the west side of the site.

The parking lot has 154 regular spaces and six that are accessible. Detectable warning panels will be installed at all of the driveway crossings. The Board discussed alternatives for the curb/sidewalk area at the head of the accessible parking spaces. One option is to have individual ramps at each opening of the access aisle with the sidewalk going up and down; the other is to drop the sidewalk down for the whole length and find a way to keep the cars from pulling forward too far. Cement vehicle stops can be used at the front of the parking spaces. Faundeen asked if some of the accessible parking could be parallel to the sidewalk instead of perpendicular because they are easier to use. A problem with this design is the sidewalk would be too narrow; it would require a wider sidewalk.

There are 4 steps at the front entrance to the bathhouse. These are necessary in this particular design due to the elevation change, quartzite 2' below the surface and because it is in the flood plain; the City requires buildings to be 2' above flood level. There will be an 8% grade ramp, with handrails to the bathhouse from the parking/sidewalk. Aldinger asked if a ramp option where people entered the ramp closer to the stairway was considered. The entry point in the same place feels more inclusive for those who can't use the stairs. There was one in the design but it would've been right up next to the sidewalk and keeping costs in mind the other option was chosen. Faundeen asked if there could be a ramp and no steps. To accomplish this would require raising the area 2' but would increase the slope from the entrance to Fairfax Avenue to almost 5'. Keeping the idea of one entry point, the ramp could start at the base of the stairs and switchback to exit ramp at the top of the stairs. Aldinger suggested moving the building back. It was explained that this was discussed in design, but moving the building back would squeeze out the ball field that was promised to the neighborhood as a compromise to locating the pool here. Moving the building would also move where the pools are and involve changes in the excavation of the pool areas which in turn raises the cost of the project.

The ramp starting at the base of the stairs with a switchback is possible, though the width of the stair area may need to be adjusted to have enough room to complete. One drawback would be the accessible parking is further away, though not prohibitive. The design team will research options.

Bathhouse: the bathhouse is made up of 2 buildings; the entrance with turnstiles (and an accessible gate) is between the two. The turnstile helps keep track of how many people are in the pool area. No longer required to pass through a shower/changing area prior to entering the pool, so this changes the entrance. A person travels on the walkway between the two buildings out onto the pool plaza. There are lockers located on the poolside of the buildings and does include the appropriate number of accessible ones. The height and hardware make them accessible. There is also a concession area with accessible height countertops. The other building holds the office/lifeguard area, and the mechanical room & storage. There are also vending machines at this end of the bathhouse. There is also a gate through the fence on the side of the bathhouse to allow mass exiting.

There are separate men's and women's changing areas with 2 family changing rooms. Each of the separate changing areas has a 5' and 3' water closets with grab bars, showers/changing rooms (one 5'x8' and others are 3'x3'), a central bench and a 2'x4' bench with the back to the wall, 3 station lav with hand dryers are located near the exit and a baby changing station is located in this area. The floors are concrete with either painted or glazed/burnished block walls, and the shower stalls are solid plastic. The men's is a similar layout. The family changing rooms have a lav, water closets with grab bars, a 3'x3' transfer shower with seat, a bench with a fold down baby changing station above the bench. Niemeyer asked where the bench is located (behind the door). Concern was expressed that the drop down changing table mounted over the bench would make it inaccessible to a wheelchair user. Squyer said they can relocate the changing table to make it a forward approach; she'll have to check on the grab bars.

The shower controls/location was discussed. The controls are push buttoned on a timer – no hot/cold adjustment; design is accessible.

Pools – Entry is through the commons area where concession tables and a lounging area are located. The tables are portable and 42" square. The benches are attached to the tables. Eight tables, one is ADA accessible (one side open.)

Elevations are set based on flood plain issues and existing terrain.

First pool is a recreation pool. It is a shallow pool and is 2' higher in elevation than the common area. Zero depth entry pool, walk straight in, no curbs. The maximum depth is 3'. Features include sprays, interactive play feature, and toddler slide. Access to the pool area is via ramp; less than 5% slope. The decking is less than 2% slope in all directions.

The need of handrails was discussed. The pool design committee planned a portable lift in place of the handrails that are recommended by the US Access Board. The City has retrofitted all the other zero depth pools with handrails. The handrails would be placed

36" apart just on one side of the pool. Building a new pool without the access built in is not practical. If budget is a problem, there are features that can be added later, but accessibility is not one of them. Because this was not considered in the design, the ramps would have to fit it into the current design; this means losing some space and the area where the ramp is would be more congested. The portable lift is battery operated by the user; signage would indicate availability.

Second pool is the diving/lap pool. It is 4' higher in elevation than the common area. A set of steps leads from the zero depth pool to this area. Access from the common area is by ramp. The portable lift planned for the zero depth pool would be used for this pool also. If handrails are installed in the recreation pool, the portable lift would not be necessary. Lap swimming is available at another city pool, so the program is accessible through that venue. Plus the lifts are less desirable from the user's standpoint.

Third pool is the lazy river and is a foot lower than the common area. The connection is less than 1:20 slope. It also is zero depth with handrails on two sides for access. The water in this pool moves and patrons float on inner tubes. It can also be used as resistance walking. Steps lead from this area to the diving area.

The AED (defibrillator) will be mounted at the correct height and not obstructed to allow access. It will be located in the office/lifeguard area.

The pavement finish is a broomed concrete.

Advertising for bids is scheduled for April 15th with bid opening on May 15th. The pool would open in 2009.

Green moved to recommend approval with the change to a handrail in the recreation pool, relocate the main entrance ramp using switchback so stair and ramp entry are at the same location, drop the front of the accessible parking stalls using cement blocks, use universal space design for the accessible parking (11' space with 5' access aisle), change the access route along Fairfax to straighten it where it crosses the main driveway entrance, use care when selecting accessible gate at entry, add bench outside the shower area of the shower/changing room and change the location of the baby changing stations in the family changing rooms; Radigan seconded. Motion passed unanimously (w/o Hoy – left meeting just prior to vote.) Radigan asked to see the redesign of the entrance ramp at the Board's next meeting.

Green asked if the Board could get some information prior to the meeting so they would have a chance to review and would be better prepared to ask questions or take action. Others agreed. Email would work great.

Faundeen asked if others felt the room was working. We should wait to see after the new table is installed. He also asked if sidewalk cut outs could be added to the next agenda. Niemeyer feels we should include others with different disabilities i.e. vision in those discussions.

Public Comment

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Carol Garry,
Recording Secretary