

MINUTES
LAWTON ACCESS BOARD
NEW CITY HALL - CITY ATTORNEY'S CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET
JANUARY 27, 2015

Mike Jones called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. in the City Attorney's Conference Room. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Sharon Fanning; Joseph Harper; Don Kesler, Jr.; Rita Love; Mike Jones.

ABSENT: None

OTHER PRESENT: Doug Wellhouse, License & Permit; Rusty Whisenhunt, Public Works; Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office.

APPROVE MINUTES of November 25, 2014 meeting

Motion by Kesler, **Second** by Harper, to approve the minutes of November 25, 2015.
Aye: Harper; Kesler; Love; Jones; Fanning. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. New Business

A. Elect a Vice-Chairman

Jones asked "Whisenhunt, are A and B one in the same"?

Whisenhunt stated yes. This would allow a representative in the absence of the Coordinator to be a voting member and allow a quorum.

Jones stated I think that is a good move. If Whisenhunt doesn't object I would nominate him for that position.

Motion by Jones, **Second** by Love, to elect Rusty Whisenhunt as the Vice-Chair/ADA Coordinators representative in his absence. **Aye:** Kesler; Love; Jones; Fanning; Harper. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

B. Appoint a member of City Staff to be the ADA Coordinators replacement, in his absence, to count towards having quorum and the right to vote.

This was covered under item 1A.

B. Transition Plan Update and review milestone chart for completion, take action if necessary.

Jones stated I wasn't at the last meeting but it appears there was good progress made in prioritizing the sidewalks.

Whisenhunt stated we have set up priorities and have handed out maps listing those 15 priorities. This is several million dollars worth of work. The city has projects that will be putting sidewalks in and we made certain to prioritize outside of those. Currently the city is taking bids on 27th Street from Lee to J Avenue, Ft Sill Boulevard from Gore to Ferris is under construction, the remainder of 2nd Street up to Ferris connecting into Elmer Thomas Park, the bike path, and SE 45th from south of Lee to MacArthur Junior High. Those are projects of the city that were not included in our priorities.

Harper asked "Will those areas be addressed before these projects or will they be addressed at the same time"?

Whisenhunt stated at the same time.

Kesler asked could we get another set of maps that shows all of the city construction. Maybe go with a different color and those for construction put in a solid line and the ones pending a dotted line.

Whisenhunt stated those that I named I can add very easily but I'm not aware of all the projects. We have projects funded for design but won't have construction funding until the next CIP. We will show those waiting funding in one color, those in design in another and funded in another.

Kesler stated I'm concerned with the 15 priorities because much of the city was left out. We left out Old Town North, Ranch Oaks, everything east past the turnpike and everything west of 38th Street.

Whisenhunt stated 38th Street is being addressed in the 38th Street project.

Kesler stated I'm talking about west of 38th.

Whisenhunt stated west of 38th at 52nd Street and Gore there is a CIP project. We were looking at where the predominant usage would be. The priorities will take you to shopping areas, hospitals, Cameron University, 2nd Street and the mall. When you are further from the core of the business areas those are handled by car or bus travel. In that area we need to work on getting sidewalks to the bus pickups.

Jones stated I agree. A few meetings back that came up as a key consideration in tying those bus stops together as quickly as can be done.

Whisenhunt stated these 15 priorities get the areas with a lot of bus stops. You also have the Health Department, hospital, Walmart, DHS, city hall, library and the mall.

Harper stated some of these streets are so narrow I don't know how you are going to put sidewalks in.

Whisenhunt stated that is a challenge in some areas. In some areas we will have to purchase right-of-ways and that means less footage of installed sidewalks due to spending money on right-of-ways.

Fanning asked "Is there a reason Lawton doesn't require the homeowners to put sidewalks in"?

Whisenhunt stated all new construction and renovation of commercial with additional footage are required to build sidewalks. The current code does not address facelifts or change of use.

Fanning asked "Does the new Walmart have sidewalks"?

Whisenhunt stated it does along 38th Street and they paid the fee for along Lee Boulevard. Sewer Rehab has to put a 42" sewer line in and if they built the sidewalk we would have to tear it out so they just paid the fee. Once the line is in we will put the sidewalk in.

Jones asked "Does everybody accept these priorities"?

Kesler stated I still have a problem leaving out Old Town North. Every sidewalk in that addition is a disaster.

Fanning stated it isn't that we are leaving it out but will be looked at later.

Whisenhunt stated once a priority is complete you will be adding another one. One of the city projects will be on Ft. Sill Boulevard from Gore to Ferris. 2nd Street is being completed which will get you from the mall all the way to Ferris. With these phases you will be able to come down Gore to get to the mall, then up 2nd Street to Ferris into the park and on Ft. Sill Boulevard you can get to Lawton High. This gets some of Old Town North.

Jones stated also remember we talked about the possibility of spending funds on the process that repairs existing sidewalks.

Whisenhunt stated they have survived 67th Street from Cache Road to Rogers Lane, Sheridan Road from Gore to Cache Road and Flower Mound from Lee to Cache Road. Some of the issues in the older areas are crosswalks, roots and sidewalks were built 3' wide.

Jones stated in some areas we will be doing the best we can with what we have. Obviously everything that is new will be in compliant.

Harper stated in some areas it would probably be cheaper to tear it out and start over.

Whisenhunt stated there is a point you have to replace instead of patch. Since the priorities have been set they will move into the transition plan. The City Manager and Russell will need to give directive to start the design work because the money set aside for accessibility is not just for sidewalks.

Neitzke asked “How will the city approach the areas where it is too narrow? Do we have to acquire right-of-way”?

Whisenhunt stated most of Sheridan has sufficient right-of-way. The challenge is the driveways that are real steep. That will require working with the property owners and redoing the drives to get back further in there.

Neitzke asked “To reduce the run of the slope”?

Whisenhunt stated yes. Those 2 things will have to be incorporated into the design. On Priority 2 you have to upgrade the traffic signal, pedestrian poles and the controllers for the intersection and that is about \$20,000.

Harper asked “Can’t that come later”?

Whisenhunt stated no. It has to be addressed at the same time.

Love asked will that also include the east side of Sheridan.

Whisenhunt stated these priorities only include one side.

Love stated I think the bus stop is on the east side.

Harper stated there is stops on both sides of the road.

Whisenhunt stated that is an issue because there are stops on the opposite side of the street and they will have to cross over at the intersection. On Sheridan Road we will have to look at the bus stops and see what it will take to get them into compliance. One of the challenges in the design will be to see where the bus stops are and making them compliant.

Fanning asked “Do we have an estimated time as to when we will start on these priorities”?

Whisenhunt stated we started collecting the funding this month and I don’t believe the city will receive those funds until March. Projects can only be done when the funds become available. We can start the design and the preparation. The Council will have to decide if they want to acquire bonds or wait on the funding to accrue. If bonds are acquired you will pay interest so you will have less funds to work with.

Harper asked “So there won’t be any construction before March”?

Whisenhunt stated the design couldn't be done before March.

Neitzke stated Priority 1 is already in the tubes.

Whisenhunt stated Priority 1 is basically extending the project on 27th to get access to DHS.

Neitzke asked "When was that process started"?

Whisenhunt stated the consultant took a year and a half to do the design.

Harper asked "For a block"?

Whisenhunt stated yes.

Neitzke asked "If funding became available in March what would a typical timeline be to design and begin construction on the project".

Whisenhunt stated depends on whether the design is done in house or by a consultant. In house will take 6 to 8 months and a consultant takes a year to a year and a half.

Harper stated in house is probably cheaper.

Whisenhunt stated yes. The problem is you only have a limited number of people that can do the design and they have other jobs going on.

Neitzke stated this is why I bring this up. I know how anxious everyone is but my experience with projects is 18 to 24 months especially if you have to contract any of it out.

Fanning asked "Would it be less expense to hire an engineer rather than contract it out"?

Whisenhunt stated it would be if we had it in the budget. Due to the drought the general fund is suffering.

Neitzke stated the reason for bringing this up is so you get an idea on the timeline.

Harper stated yes because I want to see some of this work get done.

Whisenhunt stated it now falls to the City Manger and Assistance City manager to set the priorities and start looking at when the funding will be available.

Fanning asked "What are our responsibilities now"?

Whisenhunt stated this will not be an every month activity.

Harper stated according to ADA we are supposed to meet at least once a month.

Whisenhunt stated ADA does not require the committee to meet monthly. They require a committee that addresses priorities and then makes recommendations of prioritizing.

Kesler stated something else we need to do as we move around the city is if you see work being done and sidewalks or curb ramps aren't being done we need to let the ADA Coordinator know.

Whisenhunt stated we have addressed this issue with the different divisions. If they take out the curb and there is an existing sidewalk they are suppose to install a ramp. We started this about a year and a half ago.

Jones stated if we go to a quarterly meeting it doesn't preclude us from reporting or taking notes of anything you see in the field you think is questionable or has been done wrong.

Whisenhunt stated we need to encourage everyone that if you see a spot being used by a pedestrian that needs accessibility to contact the ADA Coordinator so we can get them into the priorities.

Jones stated if we need to meet before our regular scheduled meeting we can always hold a special meeting. It appears based on the schedule of work a quarterly meeting will be sufficient.

Harper stated I don't understand why some of the design work isn't already done. This has been a need for hundreds of years. Where has everybody been hiding?

Whisenhunt stated the priorities were just addressed at the last meeting.

Harpers stated somebody should have been checking all these areas before now and have part of it done. Those areas didn't get bad over night.

Fanning stated you have to have funding before you can do anything and the funding hasn't been in place long.

Harper stated the city should have been putting aside funds every year for infrastructure. You have repair work every year and should have a certain amount set aside.

Fanning stated I'm sure they do but you are talking major renovations.

Harper stated if they had been keeping up with it yearly it wouldn't be major. This city is over 100 years old and they should have been working on it from the get go.

Jones stated we have a good starting point now with good priorities and money identified. The first priority ties into some important points such as DHS, housing, bus stop and a school. When this priority is done we will have to go to the site and have a celebration. I think we are well on our way. Is everyone in agreement that every 3 months is appropriate?

Fanning stated yes.

Love stated yes.

Kesler stated yes.

Harper asked “So you see nothing coming up within the next 3 months”?

Jones stated I don’t see anything at this point. If something does we can always call a meeting.

Harper asked “So it will be the last of April before we meet again”?

Jones stated yes. Here is my card with my email address and phone number if there is something that anyone needs to report. Does anyone have anything else they would like to discuss before we adjourn? If not thanks for being here.

2. Comments/Discussion

3. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Motion by Kesler, Second by Harper, to adjourn. **Aye:** Love; Jones; Fanning; Harper; Kesler. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**