

**MINUTES
LAWTON ACCESS BOARD
CITY HALL
CITY ATTORNEY'S CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET
FEBRUARY 5, 2019**

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: Bonacci, Rocco (entered late); Jones, Mike; Love, Kay; Kesler, Don.

ABSENT: Polk, Ray.

OTHERS PRESENT: Keith Neitzke, Parks and Recreation; Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office; Kim McConnell, Lawton Constitution; Sean Fortenbaugh, Lawton City Council; Ryan Landers, LATS; Tom Love.

APPROVE MINUTES from September 25, 2018 meeting

Motion by Kesler, Second by Love, to approve the minutes of September 25, 2018.
Aye: Love; Jones; Kesler. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. New Business

- A. Update on request by resident of Benjamin O. Davis High Rise to provide crosswalk and accessible bus stop pad on SW 6th Street.

Jones stated at the last meeting we discussed a request that came from one of the residents of the Benjamin O. Davis High Rise for an additional LATS stop and crosswalk. We voted to go ahead with the project as long as the cost was under \$3000. I have finished the design and my estimate is under \$2000. I think it will run around \$1800. I talked with LATS and we all agreed there were a number of passengers that crossed the street to go in the other direction on the bus. This was a worthwhile request and we are moving forward.

Kesler asked "Will there be curb cuts on both sides and can we strip the street"?

Jones stated yes. We will also put in a ramp that will go both ways. One of the residents makes a lot of trips to the post office and he stated that in a wheelchair you can't get to the front door of the post office from the high rise. You have to go across the street to City National Bank and cross from there. You still have some obstacles getting across to the post office.

Kesler stated the post office put in a new ramp at the front door.

Jones stated getting this route accessible would not be a city project. If there was enough support or outcry then maybe the post office will try to remedy the problem. It is surprising since this is federal property. You would think that DOJ would lean on them but they haven't as of yet.

Love stated Cameron stated as long as you had access they didn't have to make every door accessible.

Landers asked "Is there access on the opposite side"?

Jones stated there is from the parking lot but from the LATS stops there is not. He suggested I talk with the Post Master and I can't really do that in my capacity.

B. Review and discuss annual ADA compliance report recently provided to council.

Jones stated as you know the City is required annually to furnish a report about the ongoing efforts with accessibility throughout the City. The settlement to the lawsuit required the City to spend \$250,000 until this year and it ramped up to \$300,000. I'm happy to say that we exceeded that by a good amount.

Love asked "Did they talk about an agenda or timeline for sidewalks around schools?"

Jones stated there is good news to report on that front. We spent \$535,316 last year for accessible improvements. This year we will exceed that due to Southeast 45 Street and 52nd Street. Southeast 45th has a bike path and sidewalks.

Kesler stated we made the front page of the newspaper with the sidewalk projects.

Love asked "Are they going to be moving west? You have kids that have to walk to Eisenhower."

Jones stated one of the city contractors had exceeded his timeline on a great deal of his work. He is going through negotiations with the city in regards to his liquidated damages. At first glance he owes the city about \$800,000. We have proposed the possibility of working it off so to speak by putting in sidewalks. So there are some negotiations happening there. It appears we may get a fair amount of new sidewalks over time. I do know the propriety for those sidewalks will start around the schools. Are there any questions on the report that was presented to Council? Council did accept the report and it was forwarded to the attorney for the lawsuit. We have lots going on. McMahon Audition had received a grant from the McMahon Foundation for a new sound system. They had about \$127,000 left so they asked the foundation if they could keep the funds if it was spent on worthwhile projects. McMahon agreed. Of the \$127,000 \$32,000 will be spent on ADA improvements. Those improvements are underway. We have installed accessible drinking fountains and ticket counter. We will also be building an accessible wheelchair ramp in the back of the building. There was an issue with one of the shows that one of the cast members was in a wheelchair and no good way to get him onto the stage. They used the loading ramp and everything worked out fine.

Kesler stated the new sound system is an ADA issue for those who have hearing problems or is deaf.

Jones stated that is correct and that will also be corrected. We are getting assisted listening devices you can check out at the front counter.

Love stated I believe they are making more handicap seating.

Jones stated they are and we have discussed putting in an elevator. This is important because we will be able to provide ADA seating in the balcony area.

Love stated at the museum they had put chairs in the back which would be a fire hazard for someone in a wheelchair. It would have been impossible to get us out of the building in a timely manner.

Jones stated we discussed new seating and are looking at transfer seats as well as a wheelchair area. LCT is also looking at making some improvements. They have already removed a row of seats and we have some handrails to be installed.

Love stated that is great.

Kesler asked "Can we back for a second. Looking at the minutes I noticed that Bonacci was left off the minutes. We also need to provide him with a set of the maps"

Ezell stated I'll make that change.

Jones stated I'll get him the maps. Another project that is happening is being done by a group called Children United. They are going to build a totally accessible playground next to the existing playground in Elmer Thomas Park. The cost of this project will be around \$500,000.

Neitzke stated this will supplement the existing playground.

Jones stated it will have accessible merry-go-rounds and spinning seats.

Love stated that will be great.

Jones stated they will be hosting some different fund raiser. Parks and Recreation are involved and at some point I will be also. Their goal is to have it built within the next 3 years. This is an exciting project.

Neitzke stated I really like the concept and they are doing it with the right equipment.

Bonacci stated I remember as a child when we went to the park they would put me on the merry-go-round. It's nice to see something like this.

Jones stated it is long overdue.

Bonacci stated look at the progress our town has made in the past 10 years.

Love stated it is amazing what we have accomplished in such a short time. Everyone complains about what Lawton doesn't have so we need to show them what we have accomplished.

Bonacci stated someone complained about our polling places but those workers bend over backwards to help everybody. There is a lot to be said for that.

Love T asked "Are there any procedures being brought up about auditable crosswalks?"

Jones stated we do have some. I believe they are required in all new projects.

Love T stated they are needed around the Courthouse and school crossings.

Jones stated I don't know how retrofitting is going to go. Like everything else it comes down to money.

Love T stated I worry about the individuals on motorized wheelchairs that are crossing Cache Road. They do not cross at an intersection and our crosswalks need to be repainted.

Love stated if they are not crossing at the crosswalk it doesn't matter.

Jones stated the Street Department is trying to repaint some of the crosswalks.

Bonacci stated just because they are in a scooter doesn't mean you can't give them a citation.

Neitzke stated then you have the question are the intersections ADA accessible. They maybe crossing where they have a sidewalk or driveway.

Fortenbaugh stated I don't believe there is accessibility at Sheridan and Cache Road.

Love stated Sheridan Road is one of our biggest problems. There are no curb cuts. It would be nice if some of the businesses would help with those in their areas.

Jones stated I have received calls about the Courthouse and they are considering some improvements. They feel there is a need for more ADA parking and ramps.

Love T asked "Does the Chamber of Commerce fall within your spectrum?"

Jones stated no.

Bonacci stated you can park on the west side of the Chamber building and there is easy access to the front door.

Jones stated Lawton is improving.

Love T stated I would like to give kudos for fixing the front doors of this building. It really means a difference to those in a wheelchair or pushing one.

Jones stated we had the same issue at the Municipal Court.

Neitzke stated as soon as I found out about it we took care of it. Those type issues are high priority to me so please feel free to contact me directly when you know of issues of this type.

Jones stated that is all I have. Does anyone else have anything they would like to discuss?

Landers stated LATS has nothing huge at the moment. We are trying to start a better community outreach program to make people aware of LATS. We have had a couple complaints about our paratransit service. We have been meeting with our clients and some organizations to help us do better at our job. We found we needed more training and have started that process. Overall I think LATS is doing well. Eventually we will have a new transfer center and we are happy about that. We will have a bus tracking sometime in May or April and that will be excellent for the public. I'm very excited. Lots of exciting things happening and we are busy.

Jones stated awesome. We are glad to hear it.

Fortenbaugh stated I wanted to mention the new Chamber President, Brenda Spencer Ragland. One of her initiatives is improving the community to make it a better place to live. She is looking heavily at accessibility, safe routes to schools, and bike lanes. Things to make Lawton healthier in general. She has started a committee with Richard Rogalski, Tom Deighan, Albert Johnson, the Health Department and I think someone from this committee should attend. They have met twice so far. They need to be aware of what you are working on so we don't duplicate efforts. The Health Department thinks there is federal funding to help with GIS on the sidewalks and the Chamber wants to hire a grant writer. We have received federal funding before for Safe Routes to School. Ragland is serious and I think she will make something happen.

Jones stated I will make contact with them.

Kesler stated I would like to thank McConnell for being here today and continuing to report on the work we do.

Jones stated McConnell has always done a great job covering the city.

McConnell stated we are doing a series of articles on obesity. The next one is on sidewalks and I wanted to make sure I mentioned this group.

Jones stated sidewalks are a major focus for us. We have a sidewalk master plan that we continue to move forward with.

McConnell stated I know you have been involved with 27th and Lee and East Gore. Am I missing anything?

Jones stated 52nd and 45th are projects of the city. Our first priority was 27th and Lee and the second is Sheridan Road. Sheridan Road is currently under design.

Love T asked “Will the bridge going across the interstate be wheelchair accessible?”

Jones stated yes.

Love T asked “Will there be sidewalks to get to it?”

Jones stated I haven’t seen the plans but I would say yes. ADA needs are recognized all over town and there is a momentum that wasn’t there before. Thanks to McConnell and Councilman Fortenbaugh for keeping it on the front burner. It is a big problem but we are attacking it on all fronts and I think that is great.

2. Comments/Discussion

3. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

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