

MINUTES
LAWTON ACCESS BOARD
NEW CITY HALL CITY ATTORNEY'S CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET
APRIL 8, 2014

Jim Russell, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. in the New City Hall 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.; Kay Love; Jim Russell.

ABSENT: None

OTHER PRESENT: Mike Jones, City of Lawton GIS; Doug Wellhouse, Code Plan Supervisor for License & Permit Division.

Russell stated this is Doug Wellhouse and he was involved in our initial Facility Assessment and Self Evaluation prior to Otten Consulting.

APPROVE MINUTES from March 28th meeting.

Kesler stated the minutes need to state Kim McConnell was present and change my name from John to Don.

Fanning stated my injuries are actually forty-five (45) years old.

Motion by Kesler; **Second** by Harper, to approve minutes of March 28th with stated corrections. **Aye:** Harper; Kesler; Love; Russell; Fanning. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. New Business

A. Review and Discuss Transition Plan Matrix, take action if necessary

Russell stated the actual plan is much more than this document. This is what I would like for us to focus on. We want to make certain we have this correct so we can do our prioritization, funding, and starting of the projects.

Kesler stated I suggest we add a column for a number system.

Russell stated okay. Looking across the top is there anything you see we need to track. I want to track the current condition of the item identified and measure it against the standard. I want us to identify the funding source and the responsible party. Jones, is there anything we can use from MAPS for sidewalks and curbs.

Jones stated probably.

Kesler stated under terminology we need to make certain “handicap” does not appear.

Russell stated according to the documents I looked at the terminology was “person with disability”.

Fanning asked is this reference for signs?

Russell stated all city policies, documentation, and forms.

Kesler stated signs will also need to be changed.

Russell asked do we need to add a MAPS column for tracking.

Jones stated yes. I’ll see if I can come up with a map that correlates.

Russell asked do we need a column for Code Enforcement.

Wellhouse stated my concern is when we identify who is going to do the work we need to make certain they are working from the correct standards.

Russell asked if identified through an individual column we could insert the standard to make certain the correct one is being used.

Wellhouse stated yes.

Fanning asked do we need a completion column.

Russell stated yes. Are there any other tracking mechanisms we need?

Kesler stated we need to note the sound system at McMahon Auditorium needs to be redone.

Russell stated the ADA Training is to make certain city employees are trained on what an accommodation is and what is required by law. We will remove “handicap” from the terminology and leave it to “person with disability”. Public Meetings/Events accessible by way of Auxiliary Aids and/or services for: Physical Limitations; Visual Impaired; Aural Impaired; and Oral Impaired. Once we start the process of making the Transition Plan activity we will identify what falls under the different categories. For example the sound system at McMahon would all under Public Meetings/Events. We have the Grievance Procedure in place. Effective Communication is self explanatory. Looking at the buildings we will start with the Animal Shelter.

Wellhouse stated this building is under remodel and we will be addressing some of the “person with disability” issues.

Russell stated yes and it will be totally ADA compliance. We are in a very good position with this building.

Kesler stated there are not accessible restrooms at the shelter.

Russell stated that is correct and it is being addressed in the new building. We need to keep these listed for tracking purposes and to make sure the issues are addressed.

Kesler stated we could add an item that says building under construction and note the percentage of completion.

Russell stated okay. The shelter where the animals are housed is not being rebuilt. The drinking fountain is not accessible and the entry door needs to be widened. Next is the City Hall Annex.

Kesler asked is that building eventually going to be closed.

Russell stated we don’t know at this time. There is talk of a new public safety building and if one is built this building will be torn down. It will be a while before that happens. Issues with the building are route of travel, automatic doors, interior of men and women’s toilet room.

Fanning stated I know ADA states what the incline should be for ramps but we need to consider the fact that not everyone has an electric wheelchair. If it is too steep you can’t get up them.

Russell stated we need to look at the slopes.

Harper stated we also need to check the pressure and width on the doors.

Kesler stated the exposed pipes just need insulation wrapped around them.

Fanning asked what is the issue with exposed pipes.

Wellhouse stated if hot water runs for any period of time you could scald your legs on them.

Russell stated the Lawton Public Library. Issues there are parking and exterior/interior of toilet rooms.

Kesler stated there shouldn’t be handles in the lavatories.

Russell stated correct. When we replace a faucet we are using the proper one. Next is Great Plains Museum. Issues include parking, passenger loading, stage and interior/exterior toilet rooms.

Harper stated the signage is mounted to low.

Russell stated this is very common throughout the city. Were some of these issues addressed in the renovations of the building?

Wellhouse stated I haven't seen anything.

Russell stated McMahon Auditorium we have parking, accessible route, auditorium, men and women's toilet room and we need to add the sound system. Next is New City Hall. Issues are excessive slopes in the exterior;

Love asked is there a ramp for the stage.

Russell stated yes and a chair lift.

Harper stated it would be helpful to have a water fountain or drink machine on each floor.

Love stated the elevator is too small for 2 wheelchairs at the same time.

Russell stated okay.

Fanning asked are there restrooms other than the lower level and toilet covers are needed.

Russell stated there are restrooms on each level and I'll note the covers.

Kesler stated I would recommend where you have a parking lot to look at the way Great Plains Museum has done. Do the count to make certain you are in compliance.

Love asked are these spaces wide enough for a wheelchair lift to be raised and lowered.

Wellhouse stated you are required to have 1 van accessible for every 6 spaces.

Fanning stated handicap parking is not enforced. Can the sign say "Van Accessible Only" so compact cars cannot park there.

Wellhouse stated I don't believe it is limited to vans only.

Kesler stated if I'm entitled to a handicap place, which I am, and the only space available is the one identified for a van I'm going to use it.

Harper stated I believe vans needs a special spot.

Russell stated I agree. Maybe this is something we can address.

Fanning stated vans have to have room to park especially with a lift.

Russell stated it would probably be feasible and effective if we created a letter from the Board notifying business owners of violations with the ADA Standards. Then we can monitor to see if they comply. Issues with HC King Center are parking, passenger loading zone, main entry, gym, exterior, men's and women's toilet rooms.

Love stated the kitchen didn't use to be accessible.

Russell stated I'll add it to the list. Next is the Municipal Pool.

Harper asked do they have a handicap lift.

Russell stated yes.

Love stated to go in and out of the pool.

Russell stated yes.

Kesler stated on the matrix under pool area it says "does not have a permanently mounted lift".

Russell stated I'll check this out. I was told we installed one last summer. Issues with Carnegie Library are parking, exterior ramp and interior route. Issues with Owens Multipurpose Center are parking, passenger loading zone, interior, men's and women's toilet room, women's single-user toilet room, unisex accessible toilet room, daycare toilet room, and daycare girl's toilet room. Issues with the Patterson Center are parking, interior, men's and women's toilet rooms. The Police Department issues are parking and exterior, and interior. This just deals with the public access area.

Kesler stated looking at the definitions that were in our packet you will notice on number 13 it defines "place of public accommodations". According to city code those places have to be accessible and if they are not they need to be ticketed.

Russell stated you need to turn them into the city. Issues with Public Works Administration are parking and toilet rooms. This building seems to be in pretty good shape. Parks, sidewalks, streets and curb ramps are not individually identified. They are under a general category. Jones for the next meeting will you locate some maps for us to look at.

Fanning stated Elmer Thomas is a wonderful park that the city has built with wheelchair sidewalks. It is beautiful.

Love asked isn't there issues with the restrooms.

Russell stated yes. Once we have some maps we can start identifying those in terms of priority whether it is based off complaints, population density or general need. We need to set the criteria.

Love asked is there a way to count the users in the park. If we are going to prioritize it might be nice to have some numbers.

Russell stated I'll get with the director of Parks and Recreation. That is where we are with the matrix. I'll do some cleanup with your suggestions and we will pull some maps together to start talking about individual streets and parks.

2. Citizen complaints

A. Taxi complaint – lack of taxis to accommodate disabled citizens – Update

Russell stated I have sent a letter to all cab companies explaining the situation. I have asked they consider when replacing a vehicle to replace it with a vehicle that could be used to accommodate the disabled.

Kesler stated we need to check with the hotel shuttles also.

Russell stated good idea. I have spoke with LATS again and they are still working on the issue.

B. MacArthur Park curb cut

Russell stated we had a citizen ask that curb cuts be placed in the park at MacArthur Park. Parks and Recreation is looking into the situation. Jones has an update for us on the curb ramps cuts on Gore Boulevard.

Jones stated the reason curb ramps were not installed at University and Gore Boulevard is because that intersection is being considered for removal. There is a problem with accidents by those turning left across traffic and Cameron University would like to have the space for green space.

Harper asked so the bus would turn down 27th instead of University.

Jones stated possibly.

Russell stated those are the only citizen complaints I have received.

3. Transition Plan Update

A. Review milestone chart for completion, take action if necessary

Russell stated I haven't created this chart at this time.

4. Comments/Discussion

Kesler stated the state legislatures are in the process of passing a bill for the enforcement of the Open Meeting Act. This will allow a private citizen who believes a board/commission is not following the act to sue in civil court. There are provisions with the Open Meeting Act we need to be aware of. Maybe the City Attorney's office could come to our next meeting and update us on the provisions of this act.

Russell stated I'll ask the attorney's office to come address the board.

Kesler stated you have to be careful when several of us get together for coffee that we do not discuss board business are we are in violation of the law.

Russell stated if you have as quorum you cannot discuss board business.

Russell asked are there any other comments or questions. Thank you for your time. See you on the 22nd.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Kesler, **Second** by Harper, to adjourn at 4:50 p.m. **Aye:** Kesler; Love; Russell; Fanning; Harper. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**