

**MINUTES
LAWTON ACCESS BOARD
NEW CITY HALL
CITY ATTORNEY'S CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET
JULY 26, 2016**

Mike Jones, called the meeting to order at 1:30 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: Joseph Harper; Don Kesler, Jr.; Kay Love; Mike Jones.

ABSENT: Sharon Fanning.

OTHER PRESENT: Rusty Whisenhunt, Public Works; Keith Neitzke, Parks and Recreation Department; Ryan Landers and Sean Spell, LATS; Richard Rogalski, Planning Department; Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office.

APPROVE MINUTES from March 29, 2016 meeting

Motion by Kesler, Second by Harper, to approve the minutes of March 29, 2016. **Aye:** Harper; Kesler; Love; Jones. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Jones stated in the minutes there are some things we need to follow up on and Neitzke would like to share some progress.

Neitzke stated this handout shows you some of the progress that Parks and Recreation has had in Soper Park. The first photo is a view of the ADA compliant playground in Soper Park. The second photo shows you what the playground looked like before bringing the park to compliance. On the third photo you see the walkway that takes you to the park from the road. Next you see the pad for the ground level activity. You can also see the wood fiber surfacing and stair access to decks. Page 8 shows you the restrooms at Elmer Thomas Park for the Playground In The Park. This restroom is also ADA compliant. Page 9 shows the restroom we will be building at Lake Ellsworth that will have ADA compliant showers. We are in the process of getting the money to build this restroom through grants. The cost of Soper Park was around \$35,000 and the restroom at Elmer Thomas Park was \$85,000.

Jones stated it is great to see we are making progress. Also in the minutes from the last meeting we talked about sending a letter to the City Manager asking that some of the CIP ADA fund be released so we could start to work on some of our projects. Here is a copy of the letter that I'm proposing we send. Is this letter acceptable to everyone?

Harper stated it look good. (all agreed)

1. New Business

Jones stated we are waiting on Councilman Burk for this first item so let's move to Item B.

B. Consider a suggestion from the board to examine the removal of barriers to accessibility instead of achieving total compliance.

Whisenhunt stated we have talked about the sidewalk on Sheridan Road and about maybe removing some of the barriers from that sidewalk. I have worked up some dollar amounts as to what it will cost to remove some of those barriers. For a curb ramp with a landing we could do that for around \$400. This would help a lot on Sheridan Road.

Harper stated Sheridan Road is very dangerous. They drive extremely fast along that road and you have to be in the street a lot. It would be a big help to have those curb ramps.

Whisenhunt stated Sheridan Road is Priority Number 2 and doing barrier removal is much cheaper than reconstructing the sidewalk.

A. Consider a request from Johnnie Moore, a resident of the Lawton Veterans Center, that an accessible path be provided from the Veterans Center to the Braums Store located at 2202 E. Gore Blvd. (See attachment)

(Update) I spoke with the City Manager 7-7-16 on this request and he informed me that additional requests for an accessible path along this same route have been brought to him. It was also requested to extend this accessible path to Los Tres Amigos restaurant.

1. - Consider the feasibility and estimated costs involved in the proposed improvements.
2. - Report the discussion/findings of the board on this issue to the City Manager. (Mike)

Jones stated we have Richard Rogalski the Planning Director with us today. He is going to tell you a little about this request.

Rogalski stated Councilman Burk wanted to be here today but due to illness in his family he is unable to do so. This request came from the VA Center. Burk met with this group and they made a request that a sidewalk be placed on East Gore from Flower Mound all the way west to the casino on the south side and from the convenient store to the Well Fast center on the north side. The south side will be very easy to do but the north side has more issues. Due to their rules and regulations they cannot ride their scooters any further than the sidewalk that ends at Gore and Lee Boulevard. They would like to be able to ride to the casino, Braums, Sonic and Los Tres. They feel they are in prison with no way to escape. If they have this sidewalk they will be able to go and do some things. Councilman Burk is very passionate about this not only for the veterans but for the community. This would give a lot of access to the east side. We have also have applied for a grant to build a pedestrian bridge over I-44 that would give access to Cracker Barrel, Salas, 2nd Street and the mall. Councilman Burk is also going to try and get donations to help with the cost. LETA did vote to ask council to approve using the \$10,000 that is in the Fee in Lieu Of for this project.

Spell stated the bus pulls right up to the front door of the VA Center and there is a paratransit bus that about 7 of the residents make a daily reservation for the casino and other places. They are not totally without transportation.

Whisenhunt stated we looked at doing this in 2 phases. The manager is also debating whether it may need to go out for bid. The cost of the south side will run around \$75,000 and \$50,000 for the north side. They want to take this before council on August 9th so we need to make a decision today. The Board did set aside 10% of the million to be used on requested projects. This would fall under that category. I'm not certain you would want to spend all of the \$100,000 on one project.

Jones asked and we don't know for certain how much you will need from the ADA funds.

Whisenhunt stated no. We don't know what will be raised in outside donations and if we don't go out for bid I believe we can get the contractor to waive part of his cost. At this time we don't have a definite dollar amount. In the motion you may want to place a cap on what you will spend. I believe \$70,000 is a workable amount.

Jones asked do we want to make the bus stops a covered stop.

Whisenhunt stated that will add another \$18,000 to the cost of the project.

Harper stated \$70,000 is a lot. I don't want to see more than that spent.

Love stated I think this will be a worthwhile project.

Motion by Jones, **Second** by Kesler, to approve authorizing up to \$70,000 for a wheelchair accessible sidewalk to be installed on East Gore Boulevard from Flower Mound Road west to Well Fast Center. **Aye:** Kesler; Love; Jones; Harper. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

2. Comments/Discussion

3. Adjournment and travel to the LATS bus stops at NW 20th Street & NW Smith Avenue for media coverage and board member inspection of the recently improved bus stops at that location.

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