MINUTES
LAWTON ACCESS BOARD
NEW CITY HALL - CITY ATTORNEY'S CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET
OCTOBER 28, 2014

Rusty Whisenhunt 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.
ABSENT:	Kay Love; Jim Russell.
OTHER PRESENT:	Keith Neitzke, Park and Recreation; Rusty Whisenhunt, Public Works; Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office.

APPROVE MINUTES from August 26, 2014 meeting

Motion by Kesler, **Second** by Harper, to approve the minutes of August 26, 2014 as written. **Aye**: Harper; Kesler; Fanning. **Nay**: None. **Motion Passed**.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. New Business

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

Whisenhunt stated today we will be discussing Maps 10-13 and then we will move to city parks and sidewalks. Starting with Map 10 the Owens Multipurpose Center. This facility houses Community Development, Parks and Recreations and a private daycare center. Under parking there are 62 parking spaces with 3 accessible spaces. So there is adequate accessible spaces. It does address that parking spaces are not located on an accessible route to the building. Also there is signage and stripping missing. This is a priority Level 6. There are curb ramps but they do not meet the standard requirements.

Harper asked "Are they accessible?"

Whisenhunt stated yes. They are listed as a Level 2 and the signage and striping as a Level 6. The stripping doesn't have the extra access aisle for handicap parking.

Fanning asked "Is there signage?"

Whisenhunt stated yes. Those are listed as a Level 6 and the curb ramp as a Level 2.

Fanning stated I think that sounds fine.

Harper stated I agree.

Whisenhunt stated next is the passenger loading zone. There isn't a designated loading zone and it is listed as a Level 2.

Kesler stated we should leave that as a 2.

Whisenhunt stated next we move to the interior and there are several issues there. Maneuvering room at the exterior and interior daycare entrance is listed as a Level 1. The hardware does not meet standards. In the Recreation area it doesn't have an accessible counter. In the Community Development area there is a protrusion in the hallway that is an obstacle to wheelchairs. Those are all listed as a Level 1. The drinking fountain in the daycare is not low enough and listed as a Level 5. There is no accessible route to the stage or accessible seating in the gym. Those are both listed as a Level 2.

Fanning asked "Isn't that a little high for the drinking fountain?" I believe you need access to water.

Kesler asked "Since the city has more than 1 stage that is not accessible couldn't they purchase 1 or 2 portable lifts?"

Whisenhunt stated the durability and manpower of moving them would cost as much as it would to redo them. What do you think the Level should be on the drinking fountain?

Fanning stated at least a Level 3.

Whisenhunt stated there are very little organized activities for the stage and seating. Everything is done on the gym floor.

Fanning asked what is the priority Level.

Whisenhunt stated 2. Do we need to raise the number?

Kesler stated if it is never used we could move it to a Level 6.

Fanning stated I agree.

Harper stated I agree.

Whisenhunt stated the restrooms in the lobby will require total reconstruction. The doors are not wide enough and once you get inside the facilities are not accessible. Those are listed as a Level 3. All the restrooms in this building are the same.

Kesler asked "Is HR still located in that building?"

Whisenhunt stated no.

Harper asked “How many meeting are held there?”

Neitzke stated they hold the Parks and Recreation board meeting there.

Harper stated I would drop those to a 6.

Whisenhunt stated I believe they need to be addressed and not moved to the bottom of the list. Maybe a 3 is the right level.

Fanning asked “Is the daycare used all the time?”

Whisenhunt stated yes.

Fanning asked “Will a child’s wheelchair fit?”

Whisenhunt stated yes. “Do you feel a 3 is the appropriate level?”

Fanning stated a 3 sounds good.

Whisenhunt stated okay we will leave it at a Level 3. Next is the Patterson Center on Map 11.

Fanning asked “What is the Patterson Center used for?”

Whisenhunt stated it is a feeding site and a recreation facility. The map starts with parking. It states the parking needs moderate surface repair. It does have markings and the exterior ramp to the building is excessive and has no edge protection. Those are listed as a Level 2. Compared to the levels we have used on the other buildings this would be appropriate. Once you get on the interior of the building it stated the door hardware is a Level 2 and no access to the gym stage.

Fanning stated we gave the other a Level 6. Do we want to do the same here.

Harper asked “Do we want to drop it from a Level 2 to a Level 6?”

Whisenhunt stated yes. There are threshold issues between the main floor and the gym floor and those are listed as a Level 2. “Is everyone okay with a Level 2?”

Harper stated yes.

Whisenhunt stated the counter where they serve the meals is too high and is listed as a Level 2. “Is there still a meal site at this building?”

Neitzke stated yes.

Whisenhunt stated the last time I was there they brought their meals to the table.

Harper stated if that is the case then we need to drop this to a Level 4.

Whisenhunt stated okay. The drinking fountain is not accessible and is listed at a Level 5. The one at the Owens Multipurpose Center is a Level 3 so I believe we need to make this one a Level 3. The men's and women's restrooms have the same issues and are in pretty rough shape.

Kesler asked "Does the women's have a threshold problem also?"

Whisenhunt stated no. We will leave the restrooms at a Level 3. The Police Department is map 12. I don't believe we want to spend a lot of money on this building because they are going to construct a new facility. Some of the items will need to be addressed before the construction. Parking is the first issue and it stated there is no accessibility on the streets but there is parking across the street. It stated the route of travel from the parking lot is not accessible. The curb ramps are too steep and it doesn't have the proper size landings. You can get up to the landing but there isn't much maneuvering room.

Harper asked "Should we drop that to a 3 or 4?"

Kesler stated in the note column we need to state how much and when depends on when the new building is built.

Fanning asked "When is it scheduled for construction?"

Whisenhunt stated they are doing an assessment on the preliminary site and once that is complete the design will take about 18 months. Construction will take 2 to 2 ½ years so we are talking at least 4 years before the building is complete.

Fanning asked "Is there parking in the front of the building?"

Whisenhunt stated there is parallel but it is not deep enough to meet ADA standards.

Fanning asked "Is there room for angle parking?"

Whisenhunt stated there is angle parking on the south side but it has slope issues. Without major construction the only parking is across the street. There is a crosswalk and curb ramp there.

Harper stated if they will be moving within the next 4 years I don't believe we should spend a lot of money.

Whisenhunt stated these items are obstacles but not barriers. You can still use the facilities. Inside the building the counter is too high and the interior door is too narrow but a wheelchair will clear it.

Fanning stated I don't believe any of that seems to be a high priority.

Kesler stated I believe a temporary low cost fix would be okay.

Whisenhunt asked "So you are oaky with deferring this to the new facility?"

Harper stated yes.

Whisenhunt stated next is the Public Works Administration building. Their building is compliant but there is a curb ramp that ponds water and the signs are too low.

Kesler stated the men's restroom around the corner here the pressure to open the door doesn't meet standards.

Harper stated it doesn't but it is accessible.

Whisenhunt stated there are several doors in this location that doesn't meet standard. The only issue at Public Works is the ramp ponds water and the signage.

Harper asked "Can the ramp be Leveled out?"

Whisenhunt stated it is concrete and is pretty minimal. This is listed as a Level 2 priority but it doesn't prevent access to the building.

Harper stated I think they both should be a Level 6.

Kesler stated okay.

Whisenhunt stated next is parks. "Do you want to address how we are looking at those?"

Neitzke stated it is an accessibility issue from where you park or enter the park to get to whatever we are offering for recreation. Each park is different. If there are picnic tables at least one should be accessible. I don't know the best way to address it to get complete coverage. It was mentioned to have community parks as opposed to addressing 83 parks with 60 playgrounds.

Kesler asked "At Elmer Thomas what is the slope at the parking lot on the south end above the playground?"

Neitzke stated I don't know.

Whisenhunt stated I didn't look at that one. I did go to the restrooms and the ramps are messed up. Inside the facilities were in pretty good shape.

Neitzke stated the restrooms by the memorial have steps.

Harper stated the park on Bell has a basketball court with no accessibility.

Whisenhunt stated that is systematic of all of our neighborhood parks. Very few have paved access or parking. I believe the concept is to start with the newer parks such as McMahon Sports Complex, Kids Zone at Greer Park, Elmer Thomas Park and Eastside Sports complex.

Neitzke stated we would like to see accessibility to everything in the parks.

Whisenhunt stated all parks need to be on the transition list but I believe we start with the ones that get the most use.

Harper stated I agree.

Kesler stated I'm really concerned about the slope in the parking at the playground. I watched a gentleman in a wheelchair that had to have help getting stopped at the bottom of the slope.

Fanning stated that needs to be fixed.

Whisenhunt stated we need to start with parking, accessibility from the parking to the playground equipment/picnic tables and the restrooms. Those will carry the highest priorities. We need to use the same priorities that we have used within the different buildings. Is everyone okay with listing the community parks and then moving to the smaller ones. Then we will set the prioritization within the parks.

Harper stated that sounds good.

Whisenhunt stated parking barriers we have been placing at a Level 2 and restrooms a Level 3. Whisenhunt asked "Do we want to raise the restrooms since you are usually there a little longer?"

Harper stated I believe we want to raise that to a Level 2.

Fanning stated I think you need to specifically address Elmer Thomas.

Whisenhunt stated that is probably the number 1 community park, then Kids Zone, then McMahon and last would be Eastside.

Neitzke stated the newer facilities will have fewer issues.

Whisenhunt stated we will keep the barriers to access at a Level 2 and move the restrooms to a Level 3. Access to playground equipment and picnic area is a Level 2. Rehabbing the equipment is where the dollars will start adding up. Whisenhunt asked "Do we want to keep that as a Level 3?" On most of the equipment you are talking total replacement.

Neitzke stated I would recommend total replacement. The equipment doesn't meet safety standards and most of it doesn't have a transition point. So even if you provide proper services you are not able to get on the equipment.

Harper stated if the equipment is serviceable we should use it until it is no longer serviceable.

Whisenhunt stated if it is not safe it is not serviceable.

Neitzke stated this is a picture of the day use area.

Whisenhunt stated it is a nice playground but it is not compliant.

Harper stated there is no way a wheelchair could get through there.

Neitzke stated chips are considered accessible.

Fanning stated I disagree.

Whisenhunt stated we don't disagree with you but as far as standards they are considered accessible.

Neitzke stated you cannot have concrete within 6' of the playground which means we would have to put in rubber mats. If I take out all the pea gravel it would cost approximately $175,000 for engineered wood fiber. That doesn't include pouring the concrete and putting down rubber mats. This gets complicated and I agree with Whisenhunt in how we should be approaching it.

Whisenhunt stated if the playground equipment is safe let's make it a Level 3. If it isn't we need to address it now. Access to the restrooms is a Level 3. Another area that belongs to Parks and Recreation is the Ranger Station at (Lake) Lawtonka. This is an old house that was converted and it is totally inaccessible. They sell permits for the day use area and fishing and is the office for the lake maintenance administration. This is listed as a Level 1 and I believe that is realistic.

Fanning asked "So the city is responsible for the lakes?"

Whisenhunt stated yes.

Fanning stated the bathrooms are terrible there.

Whisenhunt stated Robinson Landing is descent but the parking is steep and the new ones at School House Slough is decent but it has gravel parking.

Fanning stated "The day use area is terrible. Who maintains them?"

Neitzke stated the city does but they are old and abused.

Whisenhunt stated you have the same situation at (Lake) Ellsworth.

Neitzke stated they need to start all over with the lake facilities. I hope this committee helps to bring pressure on somebody.

Whisenhunt stated I believe the restrooms at the lakes needs to be a Level 2.

Fanning stated I agree.

Kesler stated we need to be careful when we say "lakes". We need to be more specific because that could include Lakes Helen and Liberty.

Whisenhunt stated that covers the facilities. We still have barriers of ADA Training, Policy and Procedures updates, Citizen Complaints, the grievance procedure, and construction and alteration of meeting facilities. Those all carry a Level 1. The last page talks about sidewalks and streets. I've put together what has been done since January 1 on sidewalks. From January 1 to June 30th the city funded or facilitated $200,000 in accessibility through sidewalks, curb ramps, and pedestrian traffic control. From July 1 until this past Monday the city funded or facilitated $549,000 to improve sidewalks, curb ramps and traffic controls. A lot was funded along 2nd Street and West Gore. As the street division does repairs they have completed $23,000 to sidewalks and for residential sidewalks $41,000. A bike path/pedestrian route has been awarded for just under a million dollars. About $400,000 is for sidewalks and curb ramps. That will be awarded at the next council meeting. We have sidewalks/pedestrian way in the works for East 45th Street. It will go from Lee Boulevard all the way to MacArthur High School. The city will be partnering with ODOT and the city will spend about a million and ODOT will spend $7 million.

Fanning stated that is wonderful.

Kesler stated I noticed T & G got the contract for the bike path on Ft. Sill Boulevard.

Whisenhunt stated that is another project from Gore to Ferris. We have done some evaluations on 67th and Sheridan from Gore to Cache Road. A lot of Sheridan has sidewalks but there is a lot missing and no curb ramps. We are about to bid a project on 27th Street from F to Lee Boulevard for that to have sidewalks.

Fanning asked "Will this include DHS?"

Whisenhunt stated no. It will just take you to the intersection on Lee Boulevard. We need to identify routes that we want to list on the priority list. Since we need so much we need to prioritize what is important. In the current CIP we have a million dollars and part of that is for these improvements. We need to decide what will be the most beneficial.

Fanning asked "When they do the sidewalks will you be able to get your wheelchair to the bus stop?"

Whisenhunt stated yes. We need to spend some time with city maps and mark the routes as to which priority they will be. If you all agree that is what we will do at our next meeting.

Fanning stated sounds good.

Harper stated I agree.

Whisenhunt stated we don't have enough money to do all of them but if we take care of a route at a time then we will be able to start closing some of the gaps.

Harper stated I believe the basic needs are from Sheridan to University to the railroad tracks and then to Cache Road. That is my number 1 priority because I live there.

Fanning asked "Will the map have identifiers as to where the bus stops are?"

Whisenhunt stated Jones has that information so I will get with him.

2. Comments/Discussion

A. Once a prioritized list is created does the list need to go to Council for approval and release of available funds?

Kesler stated Russell emailed me and stated this did not have to go to Council because the plan has been approved.

Whisenhunt asked are there any other comments. If not thank you and we will see you at the next meeting.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

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