

**MINUTES
LAWTON ACCESS BOARD
NEW CITY HALL
CITY ATTORNEY'S CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET
NOVEMBER 29, 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.; Mike Jones.

ABSENT: Sharon Fanning; Kay Love.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim McConnell, Lawton Constitution; Ms. Wheeler; **Jack** Hanna and Keith Neitzke, Parks and Recreation Department; Rusty Whisenhunt, Public Works; Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office.

APPROVE MINUTES from September 27, 2016 meeting

Motion by Kesler, Second by Harper, to approve the minutes of September 27, 2016.
Aye: Harper; Kesler; Jones. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Jones stated I would like to say thanks to everyone for being with us today.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. New Business

- A. Review City of Lawton Parks Accessibility Study and consider improvements to some city parks that are currently lacking in accessibility.

Jones stated this study deal with 5 parks within the city limits and the lack of accessibility to them. I used the dollar figures Whisenhunt supplied. These parks have no ways to get from the designed/curbside parking to the features. We have had 1 formal complaint on the park at MacArthur Park.

Neitzke stated there is no curb cut or accessible path to the equipment.

Hanna stated you have identified the same parks that I identified.

Neitzke asked "Is this just the accessibility aspect and not the equipment?"

Jones stated yes. This is getting from the parking to the features.

Whisenhunt asked "Did you pull this from the evaluation?"

Jones stated no. Here is a handout with pictures that shows the conditions of these 5 parks. There are some sidewalks but they don't provide a continuous path through the park, to the picnic tables or the features. In the Kathy Newcombe Park there are no sidewalks at all. A couple of the parks have bridges but no sidewalks leading to them.

Hanna stated Neitzke and I have been working on this for a year and a half. Accessibility is on our hot list because we know it would make a big impact for a lot of people. My priority is to get the high impact areas and these are definitely high impact parks according to the records in my office.

Harper asked "What is the status on the sidewalks on east Gore?"

Whisenhunt stated the contract has been awarded. In January there will be a pre-work conference and a Notice to Proceed in February. They are acquiring additional donations by selling bricks.

Jones asked "What is the expected timeframe of the project?"

Whisenhunt stated 60 days.

Jones asked "Hanna, is there a park in this handout that you would like to focus on?"

Hanna stated MacArthur Park is the only one that I know of that we have received a complaint on.

Jones stated the cost estimates are different for each one. It ranges from \$10,000 on the high side to \$1600 on the low. MacArthur Park will be a little under \$1600 to provide a curb ramp, sidewalk to the park and a pad around the bench area.

Neitzke asked "Did you figure in the transition into the playground?"

Jones stated no.

Neitzke stated I want this park in our long range planning.

Whisenhunt stated this doesn't include accessible parking and that is one of the first features that has to be there. Accessible parking cost is quite a bit more than sidewalks.

Jones stated I did include parking in Harmon Park. We talked before about removing barriers in the most effective way we can. Newcombe Park and MacArthur Park are limited to on-street parking so I thought we could at least get a curb ramp there. In Newcombe Park I thought if you followed the line of the bridge straight over to the curb you could place a ramp there and that gives you direct access from that intersection. You could tie the ramp into the bridge, go across the bridge and go south with the sidewalk to provide a ramp at Laird Avenue. This cost is around \$1800.

Hanna asked “When talking about the bridge is that so you have access on the west and east side?”

Jones stated yes. There would be more involved for accessible parking but if you just add the 2 curbs ramps and interconnecting sidewalks that make a big impact for not a lot of cost.

Whisenhunt stated for parallel parking the cost is about \$3000. There is enough property for an accessible parking.

Jones stated that is reasonable.

Harper stated I would believe that major streets would be more important than parks.

Jones stated I don’t disagree but parks are a high visibility feature for the city. It won’t take a lot of money in some of these to make them more accessible than they are. Maybe not 100% perfect but it would be a big impact for little cost. This is one way of attacking the problem. Mattie Beal is another one that it wouldn’t take a lot to bring it to a high level of accessibility.

Hanna stated there are a lot of concrete paths that don’t connect and we would need curb ramps.

Jones stated it has a picnic area, pavilion and parking. I came up with about 70’ of concrete sidewalk that would basically make it all interconnect.

Hanna stated there is a lot of concrete there it is just a matter of getting from one point to another.

Kesler stated good job.

Neitzke stated this is a good start and as I said I’m looking long term at the actual playground pieces. I want to change the pea gravel to engineered wood fiber and have the equipment all ADA compliant.

Jones asked “Whisenhunt, would you rather see us add the cost of parking or do them the way they were presented?”

Whisenhunt stated I would add at least 1 parking facility.

Hanna asked “For a cost of roughly \$3000?”

Whisenhunt stated yes.

Neitzke stated in most areas we would not be required more than 1 space.

Whisenhunt stated Newcombe, MacArthur Park and Mattie Beal would need 1 and Harmon and Union would require at least 2. The cost of parking and sidewalks for all 5 parks will cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000 and you would want to bundle these projects to get the best contract price. At this time I'm doing the design for Priorities 2 and 3.

Jones asked "Do you have an estimated cost of those 2?"

Whisenhunt stated about \$300,000 a piece. We will need to purchase some right-a-way and on Sheridan we will have to cross the street at least 1 time.

Wheeler asked "Is there a bus that goes to all of the parks?"

Jones stated no.

Harper asked "Are they accessible by the bus route?"

Jones stated most of them are but not all of them.

Harper asked "What about the existing sidewalks on Sheridan. It may not be compliant but there are sidewalks. Curb ramps are needed to use what is available and that is better than nothing.

Whisenhunt stated the issue there is a drainage channel north of Sheridan Square Apartments. We have to have a pedestrian bridge over the channel. The sidewalk is half on half off the right-of-way so we will have to purchase right-of-way.

Harper asked "Is the sidewalk in front of Carl's Jr compliant?"

Whisenhunt stated no. There are cross slope issues and it is against the street. The speed limit determines how far the accessible route has to be off the face of the curb. That is your buffer zone. Our arterials are 45 miles per hour so they have to be 5' back of the curb and the desired is 8'.

Kesler asked "Why are there sidewalks on 38th Street but not on Lee at the new Walmart?"

Whisenhunt stated the City will be replacing the sewer lines on Lee in a couple of years so they paid the fee in lieu instead of building sidewalks.

Jones stated if there is no other discussion we will move to the next item. At this time there is no action to be taken.

Whisenhunt stated if we are going to move the parks before Priority 2 we do need to take action.

Jones stated this is where some tough decisions will have to be made. Priority 2 is the next project and the cost is \$300,000. If we move the parks to Priority 2 it will take \$50,000 from that project.

Whisenhunt stated I have to prioritize my design work and to get the parks cleaned up I'll have to do some design. Currently I'm working on Priority 2.

Jones asked "Are you saying you need to know whether this will take precedence over what you are working on?"

Whisenhunt stated yes.

Jones stated I would say at this point we don't want to pull you off Priority 2.

Whisenhunt stated I'm about 30% complete with the design.

Jones stated I would like to see these 5 parks done so I'll continue to work on them. I have AutoCAD now and I'm willing to help.

B. Revisit discussion of walking/running paths and discuss potential cost and durability of various surface types.

Kesler stated the young lady that spoke to us about running paths is looking for paths that are easy on your body. Concrete is the worst for running. I would like to see estimates on other products to see which would be the cheapest.

Whisenhunt stated concrete and asphalt are very equivalent in cost. Cinder running tracks are better but are not cheap and they are border line on accessibility.

Kesler stated if it were designed for running that would be better.

Whisenhunt stated if it is not for accessibility it moves out of the scope of this committee.

Harper asked "Would a woodchip path work better?"

Whisenhunt stated that would be extremely expensive. I agree concrete is not good on your body. You need something with a shock absorbent but then it isn't a compliant path.

Jones stated it would also defeat the purpose of making those paths bike accessible.

Harper asked "What about having a track around the park just for runners?"

Neitzke stated in Elmer Thomas Park there is spaghetti of internal paths. It is there but they don't use it.

Kesler stated at the elementary schools their paths are made from gravel.

Whisenhunt stated at the last meeting there was discussion on the design standards. Here is the engineer design standards with our current design standards on sidewalks, curb ramps and driveway crossings. These are all compliant with the ADA regulations.

C. Approval of annual meeting notice.

Motion by Harper, **Second** by Jones, to approve the annual meeting notice. **Aye:** Kesler; Jones; Harper. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

D. Update on sidewalk rehab contractor sole-source designation.

Jones stated we have talked about a contractor out of Norman that provides a service for existing sidewalks with trip hazards. They have a machine that grinds the sidewalks down to put them back into compliance. They have a current sole source contract with Norman and Oklahoma City and we were hoping to get the same contract. Our finance department contends there are other contractors that provide the same service so we cannot do a sole source contract. Initially this sounds like bad news but on the other side of the coin our purchasing guidelines do allow us to spend up to \$4500 with a company and all we have to do is get 3 phone bids. I just wanted to update you and let you know that we will keep this open as an option as we have money to spend.

2. Comments/Discussion

Jones stated a couple of updates. We provided an accessible entrance to the office of one of our employees. We also became aware of some issues at the Municipal Court building and we are working on fixing those. I'm working with the library on their front doors. There are some sensors issues and we may have to replace and update the doors. Those are little things but we are making some headway on all fronts.

Harper stated as long as we keep attacking the problems we will keep gaining ground.

Kesler stated when they replaced the waterline on I there was a hydrant at the corner of 9th and I. They dug up that whole corner and when they replaced the sidewalks and didn't put in curb cuts. It is not accessible.

Jones stated that address is 815 SW H and the work order was completed on January 2011. This was done during a restructuring period and curb ramp were not required at that time. This is not longer the case. Strict protocol was enacted in 2012.

Kesler stated on west Gore next to Marco's Pizza they put the sidewalk up against a utility pedestal.

Whisenhunt stated the property owner is required to build the sidewalk that abuts their property. When we extend that we will require the phone company to relocate the pedestal.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

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