Office on the Disabled
City of Saint Louis
Advisory Council Meeting
Room 305, City Hall
November 5, 2012

Minutes

Gina Hilberry called the meeting to order at 9:15 A.M. Members present included Gina Hilberry, Mike Keller, Jane Thomas, Wendy Sullivan, Bill Sheldon and Linda Baker. David Newburger and Kim Kreitner were also present. Absent were Willie Kimbrough, Jr, and Kerri Morgan

Minutes from the September 24th meeting were adopted.

The next meeting for the advisory council is scheduled on December 3rd at 9:00 A.M. in Room 305.

Marie Dennis of Access Engineering (Mississippi River Greenway)

Ms. Dennis came to speak about creating accessible pathways between Bellerive Park and Sister Marie Charles Park. Ms. Dennis also came to discuss "resting areas" at both parks. Ms. Dennis passed around a map showing pathways, resting areas, and switchbacks. Between Broadway and the river there is a substantial drop off of elevations going to the river so this affects accessibility.

Elevation difference between the parks is approximately 50 feet.

Plan is to connect the two parks. There is a hillside adjacent to the park that they could accomplish a grade change. The hillside is limited enough that it is not possible to get a 5% grade from the upper park to the lower park without cutting into an significant recently construction water retention area. They were able to get it to 8.333% slopes from the pathway with resting areas (landings) compliant with National Park Service slope standards for outdoor trails.

Ms. Hilberry pointed out to the Advisory Council that there is a set of guidelines for outdoor trails that differ from the standard ADA guidelines.

Mr. Newburger asked Ms. Dennis to come and outline this issue for the Advisory Council to get their opinion. She asked her staff to find out the maximum

threshold that could be intervals between the resting areas and the determination was 150 feet between areas.

Mr. Newburger wanted to make sure people understand that this isn't a straight pathway going from above to below; it's a pathway with switch backs and without the switchbacks, you could achieve these grades. The issue is limited space. 10 feet x 15 feet is the size of the resting areas. Mr. Keller asked about size of the platforms specifically for two person bikes. They are sufficient.

Ms. Dennis pointed out that there will be signage informing people of the grade so they will be aware. This will be an asphalt surface and there will be a bio retention facility planned for the bottom of the hill.

This trail crosses Broadway with a crosswalk. The long term goal is to cross Broadway at Dover and construct a separate use trail over to River Des Peres. Majority of use will be on the west side of Broadway. Ms. Dennis envisions audible traffic signals at their crossing for greater accessibility.

A motion has been made by the Advisory Council to express approval of the project provided that the cut out to Broadway is added. This passed unanimously.

Planning the transition plan

Mr. Newburger recently returned from the ADA Coordinators Summit put on by Great Rivers ADA Center. While the information was geared mostly toward new coordinators Mr. Newburger did take away two points that are relevant to his work. Ms. Conway (the lecturer) pressed the point that when we talk about a transition plan we are talking about the physical condition of the government space. Not so much about making programs and procedures accessible. These things should already be done in theory. The second point is the recommendation to get a map of your city, lay down your public transit routes, and then lay out where your government activity is. This shows you how you're getting people to public services and gives you a framework to make a complete list of everything you need to do.

Mr. Newburger went to the planning department in City Hall and requested a transit map. They can layer multiple maps on the computer using spreadsheets. We need to give them a wish list. This includes the buildings the city owns, homeless shelters, playgrounds, police and fire stations, city leased buildings providing services, community centers, polling places, community meeting places, senior centers, education centers, medical facilities, Missouri History Museum, St. Louis Zoo, Science Center, etc.

This becomes the starting point for our transition plan.

Ms. Hilberry states that the first tier of attention has to go to city and immediately after that is services contracted by the city such as the shelters (non-profits).

Mr. Newburger asks that any advisory council members contact us with further suggestions for the wish list.

EMA Emergency Plan Assistance

Mr. Newburger is asking for a volunteer because we need to cross check the data we have on EMA plans from the various counties and agencies. All the AmeriCorp members who were potentially going to work on this project have been working on emergency assistance with the hurricane. An intern wrote a report on deficiencies of each city and county on what deficiencies each location has based on emergency planning for those with disabilities. There is a political timing issue in all this. If we have a study that is insufficient we would like to give it to the emergency management agency to show what we say are the insufficiencies before we go public with that. Mr. Newburger believes we should go public with this information after the spring elections so the time is getting close.

New Business

The Governor's Council on Disability's annual Inclusion Award program recognizes and honors a Missouri resident, organization or business that illustrates excellence in leadership for best inclusion practices. Innovative universal design and assistive technology concepts that incorporate people with disabilities also may be submitted. The winning award and honorable mention are presented annually at the Power Up assistive technology conference.

The Governor's Council on Disability is now accepting nominations for the Annual Inclusion Award. The deadline for submitting nominations is November 30, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Morgan, Secretary