

**City of Derby**  
**ADA Advisory Board Minutes**  
**January 25, 2021**  
**3:45 p.m. City Hall Austin Room**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Kathleen O'Brien called the meeting to order at 3:51 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**In Attendance:** Melissa Mantz, ADA Board Member  
Kathleen O'Brien, ADA Board Member  
Theresa Mount, ADA Board Member  
Roger Thomas, ADA Board Member  
Andre Pretorius, ADA Board Member

**Absent:** Bobby McCrary, ADA Board Member

**City Staff:** Kiel Mangus, Deputy City Manager  
Sarah Gooding, Assistant to the City Manager

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Kiel Mangus said there have been no ADA complaints since the board last met in October 2019. He said COVID has meant fewer people are out and about in general, but more people have visited parks in the past year, making parks an important focus for discussion at today's meeting regarding the City Transition Plan.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** The ADA Advisory board did not meet in 2020 due to COVID and restrictions on gathering. The last meeting occurred October 14, 2019, and that meeting was a sitdown review of Decarsky Park ADA improvements. There was not a quorum of Board members who showed up so there were not minutes or official actions taken.

Terri Mount noted that she hasn't yet been able to tour the park, but would like to go there personally to see if it's accessible.

Kathleen O'Brien said she has taken her dogs to the park and noted the sidewalks are nice and wide. She also anticipates with the park being new construction that the restrooms are compliant.

Kiel Mangus said the same architect designed Decarsky, Madison Avenue Central Park, and Warren Riverview Park and designed the parks to be ADA-compliant. One highlight at Decarsky Park is a scoreboard scorekeeper area that is all done at grade and accessible by an individual in a wheelchair.

Andre Pretorius made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Melissa Mantz. The motion passed 5-0.

**ADA INFORMATIONAL ARTICLES:** Sarah Gooding reported on an informational campaign that began with an article celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADA and has provided education about ADA as it applies to mask ordinances, business tax credits, veteran protections, hidden

disabilities, and websites. Articles are written for the Derby News water bill newsletter and for the City's e-mail newsletter to businesses.

Future articles may focus on Decarsky Park and other ADA features at City parks, transition plan updates, and other localized content, as well as general topics such as service animals and guidelines for accessible parking.

Board members were asked to develop ideas for future content, and Kiel Mangus also invited board members to consider whether any board members would like to write an article in the future.

**ADA TRANSITION UPDATE:** Kiel Mangus said in the mid-1990s many cities began adopting transition plans to address ADA accessibility in buildings and parks. In 2006, the City of Derby hired Disabilities Management Consulting Group to do an ADA analysis, and that consultant went to all City buildings and parks to identify ADA issues.

From that research, a transition plan was created so that the City could prioritize and plan for ADA improvements. Simple things such as changing doorknobs were done right away, while more involved or expensive modifications, such as parking lot modifications and sidewalks may have taken longer. Kiel Mangus said many items on the list were accomplished in the first five or six years, and work resumed in earnest in 2018.

As part of the plan, the City decided to not make every park ADA compliant. Four parks at the time were selected to become ADA compliant: English, Garrett, High, and Riley Park.

Remediations needed for each park were listed on the 2006 Transition Plan document, which can be viewed on the City of Derby's website. The City has worked to make progress on ADA improvements at those parks since adoption of the transition plan.

Kiel Mangus highlighted that CARES Act Funds helped pay for touchless fixtures at all City parks and City facilities, which will assist with preventing COVID19 spread while also improving accessibility.

He then reviewed some of the improvements at each of the four parks in the plan, and also shared some of the decision-making considerations when choosing when and how to make those ADA improvements.

For example, Kiel Mangus said English Park and Riley Park both were sand playgrounds with PVC edging all around. Both have been upgraded to a wood fiber mulch, which is technically an ADA compliant surface. He said artificial turf would be the most ideal ADA-compliant surface, but the costs for turf, and lifetime replacement costs, are very high. The City has added turf at Garrett and High Park since the transition plan was created but also has built new parks that have artificial turf playgrounds at Madison Avenue Central Park and Warren Riverview Park. A Parks Master Plan is planned for the near future, and Kiel Mangus said it would be advantageous to have input related to ADA accessibility in that larger planning process.

The board reviewed the following topics related to each of the parks:

- **English Park:** Electrical outlets have been lowered to an appropriate level. Space has been made at the ballpark for wheelchair viewing. Some sections of concrete sidewalk are being replaced.
- **Garrett Park:** One of the biggest challenges is pavement markings, which are scheduled in Spring 2021. The park also has issues related to Field 3 not being ADA-compliant, while the other two ballfields are. Rather than correcting this now, at a high construction

costs, Kiel Mangus recommended waiting until the future Parks Master Plan is complete because that could change some of the usages at Garrett Park.

- **High Park:** Parks staff have created an alternate path to the Amphitheater area that is ADA compliant with signage that guides people along sidewalks with a less-steep grade. Staff also have installed Braille signage and pipe wrapping in the Amphitheater restrooms and upgraded ADA parking. Artificial turf playgrounds north and south were done in the last few years.
- **Riley Park:** A number of general issues make this park a challenge, including spacing of sidewalks near the bleacher areas, pavement striping, and general issues. Striping and bathroom work is expected to be completed in 2021. There will be more sidewalk work needed to reach compliance and that is under evaluation.

Kiel Mangus advised that no formal action by the Board is needed on these transition plan updates. A few board members indicated they would like to go as a group to the older parks to do a visual review at a future meeting.

They also discussed the goal of securing ADA representation on the Park and Urban Forestry Board for things like the Parks Master Plan so ADA issues are considered, and in basic plan reviews for future city construction projects. Kathleen O'Brien and Andre Pretorius discussed how basic compliance doesn't always produce the logical or ideal outcomes that might be able to be incorporated through early design review through an ADA lens. Terri Mount said she would definitely volunteer to be a part of these types of discussions. Kiel Mangus said providing input during design phases, as well as bringing issues or concerns to the City, could be ongoing goals for the ADA Advisory Board as the City nears the end of the transition plan.

**CITY EMPLOYEE ADA SENSITIVITY TRAINING:** Sarah Gooding reported that the City intends to schedule disability training for City employees later in 2021, and she asked about topics or ideas that board members would suggest to help develop meaningful training.

Terri Mount shared a recent story of interacting with a police officer who did not seem to realize that a white background on a driver's license indicates the individual is deaf. She said there needs to be more awareness of these types of things.

Other board members mentioned activities such as walking up a flight of stairs while breathing through a straw, a goggle simulator that replicates disabilities that impact vision, navigating ramps of different inclines in a wheelchair, and low-vision activities. Guest speakers also were mentioned, and planning the training will be the focus of the April ADA Advisory Board meeting. Board members would bring ideas to the next meeting in April.

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Sarah Gooding asked if 3:45 p.m. on Mondays is still a good meeting time for board members, and members confirmed that it is. The next meeting will take place at 3:45 p.m. April 12, 2021.

Kiel Mangus reminded board members that with so much communication taking place virtually it is important not to accidentally conduct a serial meeting. City staff send out agendas and other materials to board members, and board members should always reply back to one sender and never hit "reply all."

**ADJOURN:** Terri Mount made a motion to adjourn at 4:59 p.m., seconded by Andre Pretorius. The motion passed 5-0.