

Minutes

Senior Services | Aging in Place Task Force Meeting

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings Working Group

February 23, 2022 at 4:30 PM

1. Call to order

Called to order at 4:34pm.

2. Roll call

Sue Wells, John, Stephen, Margaret, Judy, John Fedele, Erin Koch and Susan Barkman

3. Minutes from prior meeting

a. January 12th

b. February 9th

No changes were requested to either date. No objections by the group.

4. Review and approve vision statement

No changes were requested to the statement.

5. Speakers

A. John Fedele, Recreation

John shared a PowerPoint, that outlined the information related to parks and ways that staff is working to improve the parks.

Normandy Oaks was finished last year and Centennial Commons is open with a little work left to do.

Trails and benches throughout the parks, with larger parks having bathroom facilities. Neighborhood parks may not have restrooms.

Nature society and arboretum with nature area. Trails are intended to be as natural as possible so they are not paved. Paved paths take away from the natural setting. Staff looks for opportunities to make the paths as smooth and barrier free as possible. Shade pavilions in many of the parks and trees offer additional shade.

Outdoor fitness equipment is seeing more activity due to the pandemic. Senior fitness equipment coming to area near senior equipment is proposed budget. Several parks will get new equipment, picnic tables and LED light replacements.

Senior Center is a part of recreation. New doors in the future at the senior center to make it more inclusive. Looking at this facility for senior friendly improvements.

Outdoor track and fitness hoping to come to Warden Park in the future. Sport fields are getting concrete pads in areas where it makes sense.

Master plan expired this year and are getting ready to start doing some public engagement in June. Master plan is about 5 years. Master plans can help get grants, typically matching grants.

B. Steven Johnson, Engineering Department

PowerPoint

Steven help with ADA projects in engineering projects.

Site plan review in the development review. They look at private property development to ensure the plans are in compliance with ADA requirement.

- Building department ensures it is built in accordance with the plans. They look to ensure compliance with ADA standards.
- Engineering can get involved in the right of way, alleys, and roads. This includes sidewalks.
- All three groups work together to ensure things work well.

Sidewalk and Crosswalks

- Ramps are available in the sidewalks and anything over 6" in heights needs a handrail along with it.
- 3 types of cross walks
- major roads get piano keys cross walk, signals, islands, additional signs. The parts of the sidewalk with the bumps at cross walks is a detectable warnings and allows people with visual impairments to use canes. They can tap the cane on the plastic, and it sounds different than the surrounding material.
- Local roads just stripe the edge lines on the cross walk, it is a challenge to restripe all of them every year so they think carefully about where midblock crossings and how much striping is needed.
- Fair Housing of Metro Detroit is able to work with folks to bring places up to code in the event they need help working with tenants and property owners.
- Zoning Code – Chapter 770 talks about parking spaces. Depending on the zoning, uses, and capacity can influence how many spaces are required. The number of accessible spaces is determined by the number of overall spaces. For the first 25 spaces, then only 1 accessible space. At times the property owner may have chosen to provide the minimum number of accessible spaces. Once they meet the requirement there is no obligation to provide more.
- We would need to change the code if more were to be required. The code is established to follow major guidelines so it is similar across different cities. The guideline has not changed for a long time so it is unlikely that it would change by the agency.
- Accessible spaces often cost an additional space to ensure space around the accessible space, so property owners are hesitant to put in more accessible spaces when they loose an additional space.
- There is no requirement for providing handicap spaces for on street parking. Often there is not space to provide and access space to separate it out that from traffic. So it can also be dangerous to provide that space if the handicap accessibility is needed on the drive lane side of the vehicle.
- Building does a lot of work to ensure a space is accessible to code, including things like handrailing's, spaces where there is turning radiiuses, and door widths in order to ensure that people with different abilities and assistance devices navigate spaces.

- Erin Koch, Senior Center

- ROSES allows options for home improvement and maintenance tasks for low income seniors.
- Proposal for a wider door which will help people be able to get into the Senior Center. May see other improvements to the same.
- Senior Center is able to be rented after hours. We have no stairs in the building. Ramps and flat within the building. Building is about 40 years old and has had wings added on.
- There are no parking meters and good lighting in the parking lot which seniors and customers love.
- Push buttons aren't required for ADA. Doorknobs are not accessible, but a lot of other levers and pulling handles.
- \$4 round trip ride on the senior center bus. We have 6 buses and 8 drivers who are seniors. Sometimes the buses are tight in neighborhood areas like cul-de-sacs. Drivers try to be attentive as possible in picking up and dropping off.
- We put a lot of trust into the drivers because seniors may feel vulnerable
- We can accommodate seniors using mobility aids on trips like tigers' games, museums and other outings.

- We have 4 workers who help with snow removal they help within 24 hours they clear sidewalks, removal from car and walkways as needed.
- Loan closet for durable medical equipment, including canes, walkers, wheelchairs, rails all available on a first come first serve. The community can donate, if it is needed.
- Susan Barkman, Assistant to the City Manager
 - A few years ago the city commission discussed a proposed ordinance for snow removal. Snow removal ordinances can be complicated to figure out what time it has to be cleared by. Additionally it requires seniors who many not be able to physically remove snow to have it cleared. This can cause impacts to seniors in terms of enforcement, because they can't remove it, many can't afford to pay someone to remove it, and would be more likely to get ticketed. Often times cities have programs for volunteers to help clear snow at senior homes, but they struggle to get enough volunteers.

Next meeting: 3/16/2022

6. Adjournment

Adjourned at 6pm.