

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY
MINUTES for Monday, October 17, 2022 at 3:00 PM

VIA Zoom

Attendance

Nate Besio	Ethan Fellows	Virginia Clark
Laura Siegel	Vanessa Eugenio Santos	Sophie Sauvé
Max Madalinski	Katherine Schad	

1. COME TO ORDER 3:06 PM

2. INTRODUCTIONS
 - a. New member Max Madalinski, Project Coordinator BPR&W, is present to discuss new playground updates.

3. NEWS & UPDATES
 - a. Nate is making progress setting up a presentation for the NPAs.
 - i. Most likely to occur in December.

4. POTENTIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS
 - a. Katherine Schad will get a new committee member from DPW for next month's meeting.
 - b. Vanessa: Did we ever get in touch with whomever is in control of the Burlington Accessibility Committee on Facebook? It could be really helpful in helping us to get the word out to the public in addition to Front Porch Forum.
 - i. The page in question:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069193750131>
 - ii. Nate: Attempted to reach out and unclear who is actually running the page. Communication has been made and will follow-up with them. Perhaps the person in charge of the page should be a part of this committee or alternatively this committee should staff the page instead.
 1. Laura: Facebook says they have multiple admins. Might as well just send a message directly to them via inbox.
 2. Nate: Will follow up with them soon.
 - c. Nate: Will start trying to get someone from the school district along with AARP.

5. PLAYGROUNDS UPDATE
 - a. Champlain Street Park Update
 - i. A "Pocket Park" located at 187 South Champlain Street
 - ii. Rough plan and render included a new playground area.

1. Basic idea for the playground it to have the main focus on structures for children from the 2-5 year old age range as well as additional structures for older children in the 5-12 year old age range.
 - a. Nate: Suggested more thought to be put into the secure transfer process for better accessibility, especially when it comes to the swings on the playground.
 - i. Also liked the basic arching structure of the render because it allows people to easily go under.
 - ii. Appreciated the surfacing and the wide open area.
 - iii. Sophie: Possibility for visiting the site sooner rather than later?
 1. Nate: Certainly, will try to make time in schedule, might also want to involve other parents with accessibility needs for additional feedback.
 - iv. Nate: Have you received any feedback from people with kids who have sensory issues yet?
 1. Max: Not yet, the render presented is mostly conceptual as of now but agreed with the idea of reaching out to those with sensory issues for more feedback.
 - v. Nate: Regarding the slide in the render, what are the parameters of the steps leading up to the top of the slide?
 1. Max: The render is conceptual but believed that the stairs and steps in question were wide and short.
 2. Nate: Recommended having wide and shallow steps so parents can give easy assistance
 3. Sophie: Information like this will be helpful for the RFP and allow the team to put together more detailed specifics on aspects of the playground like this. This would also allow the team to come back with a render that is not as conceptual.
 - b. Oakledge Park Update
 - i. Have been looking at accessible fitness equipment for the accessible fitness areas.
 1. Presented a render on planned fitness equipment
 2. Made sure there was adequate spacing between the equipment pieces to provide space for those with accessibility needs
 - a. Nate: Found the Kettlebells interesting and noted that the several aspects of the render, such as the rotating arm equipment seemed wheelchair accessible.

- b. Katherine: Thanked the BPR&W team for their efforts in making the exercise equipment accessible. Also thanked the committee for its valuable feedback for projects like this.
- c. Laura: Is there a map with a legend in braille that explains what is there in the playground?
 - i. Sophie: Currently looking into ways they can incorporate braille or perhaps a 3D render they can use to accommodate the visually impaired. Looking into what other parks have done.

6. FUTURE TRAININGS

- a. Nate: Possibility of a training, presentation, or workshop for the general public in the near future. Could be general ADA training, something more specific, or a feedback session. What does everyone think?
 - i. Vanessa: Although it may be basic, an ADA 101 might be helpful for foundational purposes. Also able to use NeoGov to spread resources and trainings internally.
 - ii. Nate: Would like to get the process started on something like a ‘Spring Training’, can involve external and internal trainings.

7. ADJOURN 3:55 PM

- a. Next meeting on 11/21/22. Potentially might be rescheduled.