Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Accessibility Standards & Design Guidelines
Advisory Working Group

Working Group Members:

Belleque, Janine – Marine Board
Benson, Iris - OPRD
Friesen, Lori - OPRD
Hansen, Bryce - ODFW
Herkamp, Kevin - ODFW
Kesch, Helena - OPRD
Moran, Georgena – Access Recreation

Peterson, Randy - ODF
Rippee, Matt - OPRD
Sayre, Tom
Schaffer, Ashley – Empowering Access
Sparks, Ryan - OPRD
Youngblood, Scott - OPRD

Wednesday, January 26, 2022
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions
   a. The group facilitator welcomed and thanked all participating members.
   b. Work group members introduced themselves and briefly described their individual backgrounds relating to the group’s mission. Broad professional experiences and perspectives across different agencies include:
      i. ADA Coordination
      ii. Consulting and Facilitation
      iii. Project Management and Operational Support
      iv. Property Management
      v. Water Recreation and Boating Access
      vi. Fishing Access and Trail-building
      vii. Government grants

2. Group Agreements
   a. The facilitator established desired attributes for meetings:
      i. Meetings should be interactive.
      ii. Members should be present and participate.
      iii. Come to the table with open minds, without assumptions.
   b. The group discussed factors for working together successfully including:
      i. Open, judgment-free dialog is necessary. Questions welcome!
      ii. Communication should be direct and clear. Although there may be some uncomfortable discussions, no harm is intended – only education and progress.
      iii. Give each other grace during this learning process.
      iv. Be present, focus and pay attention, respecting everyone’s time.
      v. Come in with a beginner’s mindset.
      vi. Listen rather than react.
vii. Allow people to complete their thoughts and contributions before moving on.

viii. Be comfortable to ask for clarification on specialized terms and acronyms.

ix. Have patience with each other.

x. Be genuine. Real is better than perfect!

xi. Give each other grace.

xii. Have a little bit of fun!

3. **Role of the Group and Process**
   a. The role of the group is to establish design standards using the combination of members’ vested interest, perspective and professional expertise.
   b. The facilitator described the relatively short timeline to produce standards by September 15, 2022 (per HB 2171) while identifying key steps to address beyond that date.
   c. Go Bonds Project will be able to incorporate some of our developed standards for the larger-built facilities.
   d. Empowering Access will lead an outreach effort, hosting listening sessions to gather information. These will be virtual and in-person sessions (when available) to maximize community outreach. Suggested non-traditional target groups include:
      i. Seniors and senior living centers
      ii. Veterans groups
      iii. Other people who don’t consider themselves disabled
      iv. Rehabilitation specialists
      v. Independent living resources
      vi. Parents and friends of persons with disabilities
   e. Send thoughts on designing the workshops to TakeAHike@EmpoweringAccess.com.
   f. An Architectural Design firm will consult on technical content and drawings.

4. **Project Goals**
   a. Group members shared many common thoughts for what factors they’d consider as making this project successful:
      i. If we develop real standards to provide better access for everyone, including other agencies, not just a gathering of existing standards.
      ii. If we develop simple and clear guidelines for future design, looking beyond ADA, think outside the norm to create solutions for an evolving public and ever-changing community users.
      iii. If we can make standards consistent across all parks and services.
      iv. If we are all engaged in the process.
      v. If suggestions are addressed and the information is available on websites.
      vi. If we develop a system to allow people to find out ahead of time if parks or park features are accessible.
      vii. When there is an ease of access for all.
      viii. In areas where the topography is challenging, provide the information so the public may decide for themselves if they will visit – that is empowering in itself.
      ix. If we learn to do everything with an accessibility lens.
      x. Be able to provide the “why” to people implementing increases awareness and understanding.
   b. Group members feel they will be meaningful contributors if:
      i. Visitors and users find benefit to what we develop.
      ii. If our sites are universally acceptable instead of just a few.
      iii. If all our voices have been heard and considered.
      iv. If changes are evident on the physical sites and we can access information online about these changes.
v. If people we talk with feel like they are represented accurately and feel part of the process.
vi. If my perspective brings value to the group and I fully participate.
vii. If we are able to establish a foundation for continuing to partner on these issues.
viii. If we become a collaborative resource to help integrate our ideas into statewide services and our granting processes.
ix. If we see people enjoying the outdoor environment with a greater representation of the community visible.

5. Questions and Next Steps (Matrix)
   a. The facilitator described her vision of creating a guidebook of standards and principles and a suite of online information to pull from.
   b. The guide book would be a living document, ever-evolving, including designs around specific facilities, programmatic elements and siting guidelines.
   c. Next steps include:
      i. Creating a draft Table of Contents for the guide book.
      ii. Setting priorities for which facilities to address, recognizing we have to start somewhere.
      iii. Once we have a framework and structure, we can break into smaller pieces, resulting in a final document along with other agency actions ongoing outside of our timeframe.
      iv. The team discussed the matrix criteria, indicating some of the criteria might be relevant to each category, some duplication and crossover, making prioritization difficult or complicated.
   v. Based on this meeting conversations, Iris, Ashley and Helena will meet to brainstorm. Remaining members shall think about priorities to discuss at the next meeting.