APPENDIX 9

Town of

AMHERST *Massachusetts*

TOWN HALL
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002-2351

Disability Access Advisory Comm.
(413) 259-3040
(413) 259-2410 [Fax]
planning@amherstma.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kendrick Park Committee
FROM: Disability Access Advisory Committee (DAAC)
RE: Kendrick Park Redevelopment
DATE: December 3, 2008

At its November 18, 2008, meeting the DAAC discussed design and development issues regarding the revitalization of Kendrick Park. The following narrative has been excerpted from the Committee's meeting minutes, and reflects opinions and suggestions of the entire DAAC, even if presented individually. The DAAC is strongly in favor of redeveloping Kendrick Park and looks forward to working with the Kendrick Park Committee.

"A discussion of Kendrick Park began with Mr. Malloy, the Planning Department liaison, describing that the Kendrick Park Committee is only in the preliminary stages of design and is concentrating its efforts on gathering public opinion, site assessment, and researching appropriate uses for the site. DAAC members were then encouraged to express their concerns or design ideas:

- Ms. Barrelet emphasized that if there are going to be paths and seating in the park, that it be accessible, with ½ moon-shaped tables (an arch shape) so that everyone sitting is visible to one another. This makes it easier for the hearing impaired to sign at the table.
- Ms. Rising referenced Tom McCarthy at UMass who works with contractors and designers to develop recreational facilities that are accessible and meet state regulations. She cited his work designing accessible skiing and rowing.
- Dana brought to our attention that currently, there is no access by wheelchair into the interior of the park; only a perimeter sidewalk that extends just halfway around the park.
- Ms. Derin expressed concern about parking for Kendrick Park because currently there are no handicap parking spaces. Ms. Rising concurred, and said that if the HC parking is across East Pleasant Street, the heavy volume of traffic creates a very treacherous situation for all pedestrians.
- Mr. Weiss suggested that McClellan Street could become the site of HC spaces as North Pleasant Street is relatively easy to cross with little traffic and it is much narrower than East Pleasant Street.
- Ms. Derin suggested that North Pleasant Street could be widened (perhaps where there is existing on-street metered parking) to accommodate HC Parking. She also suggested a parking lot within Kendrick Park that has HC spaces as this would eliminate any street crossing to enjoy the park.
- The idea of a handicap-only parking lot within Kendrick Park was mentioned, but was quickly decided that universal access (for everyone) is important. The legality of such a parking lot was also questioned.

- A final comment from Ms. Derin and others was to examine the paving material used for Kendrick Park. It was unanimous that the paving on the Bike Path, with its large pieces of glass, was inappropriate. Mr. Tringali explained that he liked the gravel (macadam) path from State Street to the South Beach at Puffer's Pond. He explained that the material fit the site and, most importantly, it was a non-slip surface and safe to use year-round.
- In addition to the paving material, Ms. Derin suggested that tree roots not buckle the sidewalks of Kendrick Park, as they have on so many streets in town, especially Kellogg Street near Rao's Coffee."

Cc: DAAC Committee Members
Larry Shaffer, Town Manager
Judith Arcamo,
Jonathan Tucker, Planning Director
Christine Brestrup, Senior Planner