

Chapter Accessibility Plan

Oregon State University Chapter of **Oozma Kappa**

Submitted May 30, 2018

The Affiliated Housing Program (AHP), Center for Fraternity & Sorority Life, Office of Student Life has requested that the Oregon State University (OSU) Chapter of Oozma Kappa (OK) prepare a Chapter Accessibility Plan using the Chapter Accessibility Planning document provided by AHP.

As discussed in the AHP accessibility-planning document, there are four area of study: Evaluation, Barrier Removal, Accommodations, and Monitoring. Each of those four areas will be discussed below as they relate to our chapter.

Evaluation

A walkthrough of OK was completed with an OSU official. During that walkthrough, and in subsequent internal conversations, we learned that there are four significant physical accessibility issues to address.

- Lack of an accessible entrance, the two entrances to the house both include steps. It may be possible to build ramps to address one of these entrances. We will need to ensure the entrance is connected to a parking space and a sidewalk.
- All of our sleeping porches are on the second and third floors, as well as our study rooms. We will need to figure out how to provide access to a bedroom and study space by the time a new member moves into the house (at full membership). This could be through installing some form of vertical access (elevator, stair lift), or it could be by providing a room on the first floor that is accessible and allowable for sleeping.
- None of the bathrooms in the house are accessible. This likely needs to be accessible for all stages of potential membership as potential members stay in the house for hours at a time. We could make a bathroom on the first floor accessible for pledging, as long as a full bathroom with shower is accessible by move-in.
- Our basement is not accessible, as it does not have vertical access. We hold chapter meetings and have social space in the basement. We will need to figure out if we should provide access to this space, or relocate events and meetings as needed for a member – as an accommodation.

There are likely other barriers that could affect a member, but many of those can be addressed through an accommodation process. In that process, a member can express more specifically what he needs, and OK can address them in an expedient manner. The priorities for now are to ensure a basic level of physical accessibility.

Barrier Removal

Oozma Kappa took the evaluation information and engaged construction professionals on the feasibility of each possible item. Based on those conversations, we have determined what is financially and structurally feasible to complete by the end of the 10-year requirement of the AHP. Each of the four items in “Evaluation” will be addressed in the following sub-sections.

Proactive Short-Term Barrier Removal

It was determined that an accessible entrance and first floor restroom (toilet and sink only) are top priorities since the lack of access to these elements may make a potential member feel un-welcome. Based on construction estimates of \$40,000 and OK’s finances, we have determined that OK can address these items summer 2020. The construction of a temporary plywood ramp (\$1,500) will be made summer 2018 to serve the recruitment periods until we can afford a more permanent ramp.

Proactive Long-Term Barrier Removal

Our ability to making the sleeping porches (or a room on the first floor), as well as a full bathroom (toilet, sink, and shower) accessible is only feasible on a longer-term scale. Based on feasibility and financial estimates with professionals, we have determined that we will be able to address these elements by summer 2024. We will achieve access here by designating a space on the first floor to serve as an accessible bedroom, with an attached accessible full bathroom. These projects have been estimated to cost around \$70,000. OK's laundry facilities are already on the first floor, but we will rearrange the space as needed as an accommodation.

Barriers to be Addressed as Accommodations

The basement of our house is not accessible as it lacks vertical access. We explored the feasibility of installing a vertical lift so an individual could go from the first floor to the basement, but have determined that it is a better approach to relocate the activities in the basement as an accommodation for the time that we have a member with need for this. If we have a member who cannot access the basement, we will hold chapter meetings on the first floor or in another accessible space such as the Memorial Union. We will relocate the TV from the basement living room to the first floor living room. We will ensure that events we typically hold in the basement are located elsewhere as well.

Timeline

We have confirmed the feasibility financially and structurally to address these barriers on the following timeline. We will inform the AHP of the status of each stage, and understand that we will be held accountable to meet these timelines.

- Summer 2018 – temporary plywood ramp installed at main entrance (\$1,500)
- Summer 2020 – permanent entrance ramp and first floor bathroom renovation (\$40,000)
- Summer 2024 – first floor sleeping room and full bathroom renovation (\$70,000)
- As needed – relocation of basement meetings and events (minor costs for space reservations)

Accommodations

For the 2018-2019 academic year, and all years moving forward, we will be designating a new chapter position of liaison to OSU for determining reasonable accommodations. This person will work with Disability Access Services (DAS) and Equal Opportunity and Access (EOA) when a chapter member requests an accommodation.

When the accommodation need is obvious (such as a member with mobility disabilities who cannot access the basement), we will provide all accommodations necessary without need to engage OSU unless we are unsure how to provide the accommodation, or want to say no. When the accommodation need is not obvious, or when we have questions, we will engage our OSU partners and implement their recommendations.

Monitoring

We understand the need of both OSU and OK to maintain communication to ensure the AHP is as accessible as possible. The new chapter liaison will also serve as a contact for yearly monitoring of OK's progress towards meeting the timeline goals set out to ensure accessibility to our chapter.