

MEMORANDUM

To: Thomas Sheridan, City Manager
From: Jena Stasik, Community Relations Manager
CC: Greg Hannan, Community Development Director
Date: February 27, 2026
Subject: America250 Legacy Project: Hudson Gazebo Enhancement – Follow Up

Community Engagement

Updated comment summary from Let's Talk Hudson (totaling 40 comments) from February 18-27.

Major Positions

1. Some Opposition to Expanded Concrete Pad
 - The most common concern is that the concrete footprint is too large and detracts from the historic “Green” character.
 - Many feel the space is becoming more of a plaza than a park.
 - Frequent requests include:
 - Reducing the size of the concrete pad.
 - Using brick, historic materials, permeable pavers, turfstone, or darker/colored concrete.
 - Adding landscaping, perimeter plantings, shrubs, and shade trees to soften the appearance.
 - Keeping the space visually “green,” quaint, and historically appropriate.
2. Accessibility Approach (Lift vs. Ramp)
 - Strong support for full ADA accessibility, but divided opinions on *how* to achieve it.
 - A significant portion of commenters prefer a ramp, citing:
 - Lower long-term maintenance.
 - Greater reliability and independence for wheelchair users.
 - Concerns about lifts breaking down or requiring assistance.
 - Visual impact of a lift on the historic structure.
 - Others support the lift, arguing:
 - It provides true access to the gazebo platform.
 - Ramps require large amounts of concrete and alter the site more dramatically.
 - Repeated concerns about maintenance costs, winter performance, aesthetics, and ensuring independence of use.

3. Preservation of Historic Character

- Broad agreement that:
 - The gazebo should primarily be repaired, not redesigned.
 - Seating inside the gazebo should remain.
 - The original structure and roof pitch should not change.
 - Any new elements should be visually subtle and historically compatible.
- Appreciation expressed for revisions that reduced earlier design changes and restored charm.

Minor Positions

- Concerns about the plaque/sign placement.
- More renderings (especially showing the lift clearly).
- Updated budgets and cost breakdowns.
- AHBR review of both gazebo and lift together.
- Suggestions for:
 - Selling commemorative pavers as fundraising.
 - Expanding the gazebo footprint instead of expanding the concrete pad.
 - Developing a broader master site plan for the Green.
 - Adjusting sidewalk layout long-term.
 - Moving electrical placement for better viewing.
 - Using removable railings.
- A small number questioned whether a lift is necessary at all for an outdoor historic structure.

Overall Summary

The revised proposal is generally viewed as an improvement over earlier versions. However, the dominant concerns remain the size of the concrete pad and the appropriateness of the lift solution. The community strongly values:

- Maintaining the Green's historic, park-like character.
- Ensuring true and reliable accessibility.
- Avoiding unnecessary hardscape expansion.

AHBR Summary

Councilman Kyle Brezovec was in attendance to cover for Councilwoman Dr. Patricia Goetz.

Public Comment – Curt VanBlarcum

- Concerned about the plaza's size due to impervious surface impact.
- Noted that bandstands are typically surrounded by greenery.
- Recommended a non-glossy concrete finish (preferably flagstone or barnstone appearance).
- Suggested evaluating and improving tree placement, adding more strategically placed shade trees, and replacing inappropriate existing trees.

Board Comments

Francoise Kenney

- Suggested exploring a “passive” ramp design concealed with mounding.
- Advocated for more trees and less concrete.

John Workley

- Supports the concrete design and addition of benches.
- Prefers the stair-model ADA lift.
- Asked whether the lift could incorporate stair risers.
- Suggested enclosing the sides to prevent children from entering.
- Recommended making south-side landscaping beds more proportional.

Allyn Marzulla

- Supports the stair ADA lift but would like to explore more traditional-looking custom options.

Amy Manko

- Opposes adding the lift, citing loss of railing and structural impact.

Jamie Sredinski

- Supports the stair lift design.
- Does not find the amount of concrete excessive.
- Emphasized that the main structure requires repairs.

Andrew Brown

- Questioned whether the AHBR has authority to review the concrete.

John Caputo

- Recognized the need for ADA compliance, no additional comments.

Lift Options

1. Flexstep by Liftup is a 2-in-1, ADA-compliant accessibility solution that functions as both a standard staircase and a wheelchair platform lift, ideal for space-constrained indoor/outdoor settings. It converts at the push of a button, supporting up to 881 lbs, and features safety sensors, battery backup, and customizable finishes to match existing décor.
 - a. Preferred option*
 - b. Estimated at \$38,000
 - c. Presented to AHBR.
 - d. Outdoor, commercial use.
 - e. Battery backup
 - f. No key required
 - g. Safety sensor on bottom.



2. An Enclosed Vertical Platform Lift is a traditional option with limited customization but meets ADA compliance and is ideal for commercial use.
 - a. Estimates \$5,000 - \$15,000
 - b. Outdoor, commercial use.
 - c. Keyed switch

- d. Battery backup option or manual lowering hand crank.
- e. Can prevent entrapment and unauthorized use through safety functions.

