

# **ADA Advisory Council Minutes – Dec. 8, 2021**

## **Attendance**

Advisory Council Members Present: Steve Schoenberg, Anthony Fadale, Joe Cheray, Robert Nugent, Marilyn Lind, Frank Kent and Kim Dietrich

Absent: None

City Staff Present: David Bevens, Assistant

## **Welcome & Introductions**

## **Additions and Approval of the Agenda and Minutes**

None

## **Public Comments, Public Outreach**

None

## **Old Business**

**Bird Scooters Update** – Susan McClatcherty, CAC President and guest at the meeting, said a representative from Bird presented to the City Council the following:

- Bird will be deploying newer, heavier scooters.
- Bird has received 50 complaints so far since they began operations in Topeka.
- Bird wants to introduce bicycles in the future.

Susan said the Council appeared to be pleased with Bird so far.

**ADA Accessible Parking Survey Update** – Joe shared the following:

- Only one person responded to her efforts to contact those who wanted to be contacted following the survey closing.
- The project has been completed; the Council approved her request to prepare a presentation for the Governing Body to be shared with the group for their approval. Steve offered to assist.
- Joe said she will finalize her assessment – find commonalities in the survey – and create slides.

The group unanimously approved closing the project and for Joe to create a presentation.

It was recommended, and agreed upon by all, that the presentation will be reviewed to form by the City Communications director.

Joe added the presentation will include screen grabs of the survey, news footage to show we actively sought input from the public.

Joe also said she appreciates everyone's trust in her to shepherd the survey process. Several thanked her for her work on the project.

### **Review/Restart Subcommittee Work – Update**

There was nothing new to report. Work will begin once some other initiatives have been completed. Regarding the LE Training Review, the group wants to wait until the seating of the new police chief before moving forward with dialogue and recommendations.

Anthony asked that information he sent David regarding Emergency Preparedness be forwarded to the group, which he did.

### **ADA Webpage content**

Nothing new to report. David said he would look for a Vision and Goals Statements and review the Accomplishment list.

### **Candidate Survey Question re: Full-time City of Topeka ADA Coordinator Position – Update**

The group was provided information David had asked for and received the day of the meeting from the City of Lawrence full-time ADA Coordinator. To discuss in January.

## **New business**

### **Access ramp to rental properties provided under a program through the Housing Division at the City**

Kim explained the rules and a need for changes to the City's policy about providing access ramps to those who need them. The current policy only allows for one ramp to be built for a person. The problem is, what happens if a person moves to a new location and needs a new ramp?

Anthony asked:

- What's the budget?
- How much money is needed annually to meet the needs of everyone requesting a ramp?
- What are the program priorities?
- What are the policies?

The plan is to get program requirements first along with budget, expenditures, and current balance. Also, understand to date how many ramps have been built.

It was also suggested that Corrie Wright be invited to the meeting. David said he would ask Corrie to attend.

Someone also wondered how many ramps had been denied because someone lives in a floodplain.

## **Report on any ADA compliance complaints**

David said he received a letter from an older woman who takes care of her mother. She said that toilets in some businesses are too low to the ground and make it difficult to assist her mother.

Anthony said that it falls under the Title III standard. He explained that changes can be made if “readily and achievable without difficulty and expense.” He went on to say if a bathroom was redone, then it would have to meet the appropriate standards. If one is redoing a whole bathroom except for the toilet, then a non-compliant toilet would need to be replaced. However, if only a faucet is being replaced, it would not trigger replacement of all fixtures.

## **Non-ADA Council related issues/questions**

None

**Next meeting – January 12, 2022**

**Adjourned**

## Old Business – Item #5

### Accessibility Program (Barrier Removal) – City of Topeka

If you have difficulty entering, leaving, or moving about your home due to a disability, our accessibility program can modify those areas of your home to make them easier to use. Eligible homeowners and renters can receive a one-time grant to assist with some home improvements.

#### Download the Accessibility Program Flyer

Homeowner Services may include:

- One access to the home
- Wheel chair ramp
- Handrails
- Door widening
- Accessible showers, shower grab bars
- Accessible sinks and faucet handles (bathroom only)
- Elevated (ADA) toilets
- Rental Services may include:
  - One access to the home
  - Wheel chair ramp

You are eligible if:

- Your home is within the Topeka city limits
- Your household income is 80% or less than the Topeka area median family income (MFI)
- You or someone in your household is disabled. You must provide a medical request from a licensed physician.

Applying

Renters and homeowners may apply. Call 785-368-3711 or [download the Accessibility Program Application](#).

Corrie Wright  
Division Director of Housing Services  
[cwright@topeka.org](mailto:cwright@topeka.org)  
[785-368-3711](tel:785-368-3711)