

Topeka ADA Advisory Council Meeting

April 14, 2021 Minutes

Attendance

Advisory Council Members Present: Anthony Fadale, Annette Caraway, Kim Dietrich, Jeff Williams, Joe Cheray, Steve Schoenberg, Marilyn Lind, Marie Carter, and Frank Kent

Absent: Ronda Hubbard

City Staff Present: Interim COT ADA Coordinator Mark Schreiner, P.E., and David Bevens, Assistant

Welcome & Introductions - None

Additions and Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Approval of the minutes and agenda.

Public Comments, Public Outreach – None

Old Business

Subcommittee Reports

Parking: The group discussed adding language to the Parking Survey that indicates that participation is voluntary and the contact information wouldn't be used. Suggestion was made to check past survey

language. Also, asked that it be reviewed by Legal or Communications. Joe approved

Emergency Management: No new discussion

Enforcement: Joe and Ronda continue to gather information about different agency protocols, including KHP and KLETC. Other contacts include Alabama and California. Anthony said to contact Robert Cooper, State Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and get transcript from a town hall meeting he was involved in 2019.

Recognition Program: No new discussion

Social Media: No new discussion

Report on any ADA compliance complaints & Non-ADA Council related issues/questions

- SNCO Motor Vehicle Annex – gap causing difficulty in using a wheelchair – no change
- Huntoon & McAllister – curb cuts needed on drives across sidewalks – seek repairs using ADA ramp program; the sidewalk is actually privately

owned. City would have to get permission to make changes.

- Stone House Animal Clinic – front door difficult to open – David will speak to them, stop in.

Non-ADA Council related issues/questions – None

Schedule next meeting – May 12

Meeting Adjourned

Accessible Parking Survey Questions

Do you or someone in your family have a disability that qualifies them for an accessible parking permit? (Applications for accessibility permits must be signed by a doctor)

Yes

No

How important is accessibility parking availability to you?

Very Important
Somewhat Important
Not Very Important

Do you need a van accessible parking space with side aisle access?

Yes
No

How often do you have problems finding accessible parking in your community?

Every time
Most times
Less than half the time
Never

Where do you most often have problems finding accessible parking?

Downtown
Shopping centers/malls
Grocery Stores

Hospitals/Medical Centers
Parks
Large Businesses
Small Businesses
Colleges/Schools
Government Buildings

How adequate is enforcement of violations?

Adequate
About 50% or more of the time
Inadequate

Which obstacles are you most likely to encounter that prevent exiting your vehicle?

Other vehicles parked too close
Curbs
Trees
Planters
Parking meters
Bike racks
Benches
Other (Please explain in the comments below)

Please share your experiences with accessible parking availability in Topeka and how it impacts your leading an independent life.

Your answer

If you would like to be contacted about this survey, please leave your name and email address.

ADA Advisory Council 2021 Goals and 2020 Accomplishments

Updated December 9, 2020

1. Review the scope and degree of current local law enforcement training for officers who communicate at the point of contact with those with a disability. Start a dialogue with the Topeka Police Department and Shawnee County Sheriff's Office with the intent of offering suggestions on how to improve those contacts for the safety of citizens and officers alike. (Added Dec. 9, 2020 meeting)

2. Work with emergency management regarding emergency evacuations and shelter for localized and citywide emergencies.

Completed in 2020:

- o COVID 19 response
- o Kansas Emergency Management Division, ADA subcommittee meeting regarding notification to those with a disability, including the deaf and hard of hearing and the blind or low vision individuals about tornadoes, other community emergencies.

3. Create a process to provide information to persons with a disability about services available to them, where to find assistance in accessing them, and aggressively market the information to them/general public. (Rolled goals #3 and #4 together. Goal #4 is now and action item.)

Action Item:

- o Work to finalize our social media presence. This includes removing the old Topeka ADA Council page and designating an individual from our council to be responsible for maintaining it.

☐ Divide our areas of focus, such as transportation, accessibility, housing, general complaints, etc. with members being responsible for generating content for the social media pages. Members with specific experience or expertise and desire in a certain area would be responsible for investigating and reporting back to the council.

o Reach out and partner with area agencies and resources for the purpose of providing awareness about their services and the ADA Council's mission. Agencies could include NAMI, Valeo, VA, the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library, Jayhawk Area on Aging, the Disabilities Rights Center, TARC, SLI, Cappars, Other Affiliates of Shawnee County CDDO, Papans Landing, LULAC, and East Topeka Senior Center. (Kim suggested adding the organizations bolded above.)

☐ Promote other agencies and be promoted by them on social media.

4. The ADA Advisory Council will support and advocate the continued funding for sidewalks and other existing infrastructure improvements that will benefit all people, paying particular attention the needs of those with a

disability. (Added May 8, 2019)(Modified after Dec. 9 meeting, rolling in the self-advocacy on the 2019-2020 list)

Action Item:

- o Meet with County ADA Coordinator and discuss making Old Prairie Town accessible to all people with disabilities. Encourage/work with them to begin the project. (Kim suggested to add this during the Dec. 9, 2020 meeting.)

Completed in 2020:

- o Letters to Council or Public Works advocating for continuation of the funding for accessible sidewalks and ramps.
- o Letter to Council supporting Topeka Metro funding. Also letter supporting their request to build connecting sidewalks from existing public sidewalks to their bus infrastructure, such as shelters and benches, being put in.

5. The ADA Advisory Council strives to ensure that everyone is entitled to effective communication regardless of abilities. (Added June 12, 2019)

Completed in 2020:

- o Kansas Emergency Management Division, ADA subcommittee meeting regarding notifying those with a disability about tornadoes, other community emergencies.

Other activities the Advisory Council participated in during 2020:

- o Participated in the National Disability Employment Awareness Month by preparing a proclamation read by the Mayor designating October as NDEA Month. Kim Dietrich, ADA Council member and Advocate at the Topeka Independent Living Resource Center who works with those with a disability to prepare for and find a job was on Zoom to receive the proclamation.

6. Create a policy and process to involve City Council members in handling citizen ADA complaints since they also field concerns from citizens. Individual ADA Councilmembers can work with individual City Council

members to address direct concerns of citizens. (Jeff suggested through submittal during the Dec. 9, 2020 meeting.)

2020 Goal Accomplishment

- o Promoted filling out the 2020 Census by those with a disability by providing talent for Public Service Announcements and through reaching out to those living in multi-family high rises.

Note: The goal about promoting accessible transportation to areas outside of the County was removed from the list due to the demise of the taxi service and reduction in services by Topeka Metro due to a drop in needed service due to the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic.

