

**Agenda provided for the Nov. 8, 2022, meeting for
reference purposes only**

**ADA Advisory Council Agenda
Nov. 8, 2022**

1 – 2:30 p.m., Zoom Meeting

Welcome & Introductions

Gretchen Spiker, Communications Director, City of Topeka.

Additions and Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Public Comments, Public Outreach

New Business

Old Business

1. Reset – What the Council wants to accomplish next. “Here is where I think we need to go.” Review City Attorney Amanda Stanley’s guidance presented at the August meeting. (See at end of Sept. Minutes below)
2. Further discussion regarding the Agency Survey and the Parking Survey

Report on any ADA compliance complaints

Non-ADA Council related issues/questions

Schedule the next meeting - December 14, 2022

Adjourn

ADA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Nov. 8, 2022

Members Present: Steve Schoenberg, Chair, Kim Dietrich, Michael Byington, Robert Nugent, Anthony Fadale, Joe Cheray, and Nicolas Trammell.

Absent: Aricles James “Wulf”

Welcome & Introductions

Gretchen Spiker, Communications Director, City of Topeka, introduced herself, saying she is there to help support the Council’s communications needs.

Additions and Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Bird Scooter discussion was added to the agenda. The amended agenda and minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comments, Public Outreach - None

New Business - Added agenda item

Bird Scooter Discussion

Michael said he has seen improvements by the local Scooter managers who are collecting and resetting in new locations. He observed several scooters and they are no longer blocking detectable warnings. He believes the group’s input and discussion with Bird executives during the September ADA Council Meeting did some good.

Michael advocates scooters emitting a sound because those who are blind or visually impaired can’t hear them, just like they can’t hear electric vehicles. Also at issue are gas powered vehicles that shut down at stop lights. Federal support of installing audible

signals at traffic crossings changed under President Trump.

Old Business

1. Reset – What the Council wants to accomplish next. “Here is where I think we need to go.” Review City Attorney Amanda Stanley’s guidance presented at the August meeting.

The ADA Council reviewed City Attorney Amanda Stanley’s recommendations regarding where it should focus. (See them at the end of these minutes.) A discussion about developing and administering a public survey about what people see as the issues pertaining to those with disabilities was ultimately turned down in favor of the group creating a flyer to send to agencies with missions supporting those with disabilities, sharing with them what the ADA Advisory Council’s mission and focus with the intent of better promoting ADA matters in the City of Topeka.

Comments by ADA Councilmembers included:

Kim -What is an example of a survey example? I am not sure this is needed. Not sure how much we would get out of a survey.

Anthony - When I had put that in the last meeting’s minutes, it was to get some sense of what we had, what is the sense the community is focused on. If we already have that sense, I don’t mind, if we already have a network, we don’t need a survey. I was trying to make sure we know what the “ask” is that we know what we are asking from the City Council. My initial thought was to follow the survey guidelines similar to the Parking Survey but we don’t need several months to do that.

Robert - I Bob - I think the reason we were appointed to this committee is because of our backgrounds. I feel like Kim, a survey would add credence to the Council, but I don't think we need to. We already have that in the people in this group.

Michael - He addressed the issue from a Regulation 504 compliance perspective. He said: For all disability groups, what needs to be done, is a huge issue that can't be done without taking a systematic approach. We need to look at the Transition plan to see what is codified in the accessibility standards etc. He wants to add staff time. I would like to see a report each time (meeting) about a specific city agency to see what services there are and what ones are needed or need improved upon. We need to do it in a system rather than do this over here, this over there. No piece meal approach.

Robert - The ADA group is adrift and that is what we are trying to do is get more focused. I would like a dedicated staff to do research. We should be directing staff because we don't have expertise on where to go.

Anthony - According to the City Attorney, our charge is to review city activities. We can ask for a presentation from a city department on what they view as ADA issues, e.g.: police, fire, whatever department. Then we could lend our guidance on that perspective on what they should be looking at. Self-evaluation is ongoing. We can start at a certain point and end at a certain point but there is a nexus between defined issues and Michael's overview approach.

Steve - He raised the questions about whether agencies that serve those with disabilities know about our purpose and mission.

Kim - The best way to approach agencies is for the group to work on information for a flyer and that City Communications can help design a flyer, add photos. We also have translation services as well - Spanish and English. She said she was open to ideas to develop it.

Steve - He suggested that maybe the City website could have a sign language function. He also suggested a subcommittee work on the flyer. Kim and Joe agreed to work on putting together language for a flyer. Gretchen said City Communications would work with them in designing it.

Michael - Our services need to be integrated into all of our City agencies, to include accommodations for people with disabilities. Policy decisions should not be managed by budgetary practices because access will not become a practice until each entity of the City always includes funds for costs associated with providing access. At what point do we offer documents in Braille? There needs to be a budget for that. But it should not be in a line item that can be pulled from but actually a part of a budget, not something like a slush fund that can be reduced.

Steve - He said he wants simple clear language in the flyer. There are a lot of people who don't have great communication skills and they for example vote on stuff that they have no idea what they are voting on.

Michael - Agreed with Steve's comments about issues surrounding accessible voting, including understanding the issues one is voting on. A lot of what you are talking about are administered by the Secretary of State. There also needs to be some city and county involvement on issues, like the tax at Gage

Park. There was an explanation before each amendment question but not written so that it can be explained to those who use ASL as their primary language.

Susan (Community Member) - Susan shared about her son's experience volunteering at a polling place. She said he has a disability. It was a private entity. The bathrooms were not accessible for people with disabilities. Find it troubling that we have election sites where there aren't a lot of foresight that when people go to the poll they may need to use the bathroom. Anthony ask Susan to send details to David and for David to send it to him for review at the State level as he is the State's ADA Coordinator.

Michael - The poll issue is obligation of Secretary of State and local officials, who have to follow the guidelines set forth by the Secretary of State's office. Something broke down. He commended Susan for working the polling places. People with a disability could be the person at the poll to feed the machine and handing out a sticker. Susan said that was her son's job.

Michael - Transition plan - 504 or ADA transition plan document. Living document. Plan shows where we are when the documents. There isn't emphasis on them now as in the past with assumption that many of them have been achieved. I personally don't think we are ready to leave our transition plan.

Susan - She said she would like to be on a committee to look at plan, see if there are holes that need filled, what has changed, and what needs update. Michael Byington said he would be on it.

Kim - She said she would reach out to agencies once flyer is produced.

Joe - She said she would reach to the Democratic Caucus for those with Disabilities as she is a member.

Anthony - He said that the Great Plains ADA Technical Assistance Center just had its ADA training virtually. One of those was self-evaluation and Transition Plan technical documents. He said he would send it to David, and David could then send it Michael and Susan and anyone else who would like to see it. He also shared the telephone number to the regional technical center - 1 800 949-4232.

A motion was made by Anthony, seconded by Robert, and approved unanimously by the ADA Advisory Council to appoint Kim and Joe to the Outreach Committee to put together a flyer about the Advisory Council and appoint Susan and Michael to work on the transition plan.

Joe and Kim will send information back and forth and send materials to City Communications to be used for the flyer.

Steve - He asked G about working on hearing resources within the City. Gretchen said she would be willing to work with Steve. David was directed to schedule a meeting for both.

2. Further discussion regarding the Agency Survey and the Parking Survey

Agency survey discussion in item 1.

Parking Survey - Anthony suggested that City Staff go through proper channels to make a request to schedule a presentation about the results of the Parking Survey.

Report on any ADA compliance complaints - No additional ones.

Non-ADA Council related issues/questions - No additional ones.

Schedule the next meeting - December 14, 2022

Adjourned