

# **ADA Advisory Council Agenda**

## **Dec. 14, 2022**

1 – 2:30 p.m., Zoom Meeting

Councilmembers Present: Steve Schoenberg, Chair, Anthony Fadale, Joe Cheray, Kim Dietrich, Michael Byington, Robert Nugent.

Absent: Nicholas Trammell and Aricles “Wulf” James

Guest: Mayor Mike Padilla

### Welcome & Introductions

### Additions and Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Michael made one correction to the November minutes. Regarding the matter of quiet cars and other vehicles, such as scooters, the Obama Administration signed legislation adopted by both houses that would require vehicles to have a sound making device on them. This would make them more identifiable to the blind and visually impaired. The legislation was left to the Trump Administration to implement. The regulatory process was pulled back which effectively eliminated the legislation. The minutes should read that Michael was talking about quiet cars with a noise maker installed and not about accessible traffic signals.

The minutes as corrected were unanimously approved as well as the December meeting’s agenda.

### Public Comments, Public Outreach

1. Susan M. - Concerns about the City’s Parking Plan (see attached) - She was not present. Discussion on the matter was postponed.

## New Business

### 1. Welcome Mayor Mike Padilla!

Mayor Padilla spent most of his time sharing with the group about the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Officer. He said it is important for the Advisory Council to know what the “ask” is, to be upfront, vocal, collaborative about the needs of those with disabilities. While ADA is a priority for the City and its staff, it will be the DEI Officer’s duty to interact on a more regular basis with staff. His office will be next to the Mayor’s so they can collaborate with one another. The Mayor doesn’t want anything left out of the conversation regarding DEI matters.

Steve asked for additional clarification by asking, “What should be expected of the DEI Officer?” The Mayor said he should be a visionary, fostering more collaboration through more communications between him and staff. Rather than relying on reports, the Mayor said he wants to personally be part of the action as it is being done, the actions that are taking place. And he wants staff to be, too. “You can talk an awful lot but you have to ‘do’. That is my expectation. Talk, intake, but do. Move forward to get what is needed.”

Steve said that he would like a representative from the ADA Council to talk with the DEI Officer. Mayor replied, “That is a given. He will be meeting with all. There is no one left behind.” Joe said she is very interested in having a conversation with him about the needs of Kansans. The Mayor said there would be a series of conversations.

Anthony, followed by the group, thanked the Mayor for attending the meeting and speaking with its members.

### 2. ADA Advisory Council Officers Election

David read the bylaws regarding elections. Joe stated she wants Steve to

continue as chair for another term. The bylaws state that a person can't run for more than two consecutive terms as president. It was noted that Steve only ran once and that he was the acting chair for 11 months before that. He became chair in February 2021 after a member elected in January left the Advisory Council. It was decided he could run for a second term. Michael made a motion and Bob seconded that a vote be taken in January. It was approved unanimously. Anthony noted that the vice-chair position would be up for a vote then, too.

### Old Business

#### 1. Public Outreach - Flyer Subcommittee Report

Joe said she and Kim met with Gretchen Spiker, COT Communications Director, and shared with her a draft of the contents for a flyer about the ADA Advisory Council. The group reviewed the draft. Michael recommended that, "access to equally effective communications" be added to the draft. The group agreed and the additional verbiage will be added. A question was raised whether the flyer should include the DEI Officer's contact information rather than David's. It was decided to include it and a decision made after he starts at the City and before the flyer is distributed whether to include his or someone else's.

The group then discussed distribution and decided that it would be best to deliver the information through all possible channels, including social media, mail, email, etc. and to all groups, especially those who advocate or serve those with a disability.

Kim said she will take the recommendations, update the flyer, and send them to Gretchen.

#### 2. Transition Plan - Progress Status Report

Michael said he and Susan discussed the plan. He had done a comprehensive reading of it. He shared with the group his thoughts

about updating the transition plan. He said the COT's hasn't been updated since 2008 or 2009. He wonders if efforts should be spent now updating it, since the federal government doesn't have a mechanism in place to do so, or should the group spend its time answering the question, "What are the greatest needs of those with disabilities? And who do we go to that will fulfill the need." Some said the plan needs to be updated. Michael responded, "While I agree with you we need to update the plan, I don't want to just check the boxes. A higher priority is to provide information to the community so they know where to go for accessibility to programs and physical accommodations." Additional discussion will follow.

#### Report on any ADA compliance complaints

David reported on a complaint about the lack of parking in the 900 block of Jackson St. and a half a block in each direction from Jackson on 10<sup>th</sup> St. A man with a mobility disability complained about the lack of parking stalls because they were marked off or occupied for construction purposes. There were three infrastructure repair/replacement projects going on in the area at the same time. David is going to seek better communication solutions for construction projects in the downtown area. He said it is very unusual that three projects take place at the same time in the same area and that not all of the projects were City projects. Better coordination is needed.

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

Schedule the next meeting - January 11, 2022

Adjourn