

ADA Advisory Council Minutes – Feb. 16, 2022

Attendance

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

Absent: None

City Staff Present: David Bevens, Assistant to ADA Coordinator

Note: This meeting had to be rescheduled from Feb. 9 to February 16 due to a scheduling conflict.

Welcome & Introductions

Additions and Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

None

Public Comments, Public Outreach

None

Old Business – None of the following “Old Business” items were discussed. Instead, the Advisory Council went to New Business in order to discuss the upcoming Topeka ADA Advisory Council’s Annual Report to the Topeka Governing Body.

1. ADA Webpage content – Draft Review
2. Full-time City of Topeka ADA Coordinator Position – Continue Discussion

3. Access ramp to rental properties provided through HUD funds via the City of Topeka
4. Review/Restart Subcommittee Work
5. Emergency Management LE Training Review

New Business

1. Presentation to the Governing Body – **Note: During the meeting, it was announced the Annual ADA Advisory Council Report and Presentation were scheduled for March 15. All materials were to be to the City Clerk by March 2. However, since the meeting, the presentation was postponed until April 19. The report and presentation are due to the City Clerk by April 6. The goals is to have all materials ready by March 30.**

Members of the group listed several activities/accomplishments during 2020-21 including: Administering and analyzing a public survey about accessible parking to learn what the public thinks about accessible parking in Topeka; improved the ADA Council's social media presence; participated in a meeting with neighborhood leaders; and helped resolve a wide variety of complaints and issues those with a disability face in their everyday lives.

Anthony said that the report should note that when the group found an issue, it moved fast to resolve it. We focused on what the community wanted us to focus on, working in collaboration with them.

Several of the members felt the annual report should stress that the ADA Advisory Council has an open door policy and that it wants to engage not only the public but members of the Governing Body and staff, too.

A lot of discussion centered on whether the parking survey results should be presented now or at a later meeting because of the 5 to 7 minute time limit set on the presentation. Joe felt that it should be mentioned during the presentation but be brought back to the Council at another time for a full-depth discussion.

The group went through the 2020-21 goals and accomplishments line by line and approved the document with changes through a motion by Anthony, second by Marilyn and a majority vote.

Report on any ADA compliance complaints: None

Advisory Councilmember Reports

Marilyn reported on a law suit brought by two blind students against the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees. As reported recently in the Los Angeles Times, “The case boiled down to a question over whether unintentional discrimination — a lack of accommodation, for example, that inadvertently hinders a person — is a violation of federal law.

Though two courts said it was, the district argued the opposite and questioned the legal reasoning behind the suit.” (The Board was considering appealing the case to the Supreme Court but suspended their quest on March 3. Mediations continue in the case between the District and the two students who allege they were denied equal access to education in the District.)

Schedule next meeting – March 9, 2022

Adjourned