

ADA Advisory Council Minutes

August 10, 2022

Attendance:

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

Also present: Amanda Stanley, City Attorney, and Susan McClacherty, neighborhood leader.

City Staff Present: David Bevens, Assistant to the City of Topeka ADA Coordinator

Welcome & Introductions

Additions and Approval of the Agenda and Minutes – Approved

Public Comments, Public Outreach

New business

1. Amanda Stanley, Topeka City Attorney – Guidance on the COT Advisory Council's Role

Ms. Stanley presented (see attached PowerPoint Presentation) on the Mission, Composition, Duties and the required Meeting Frequency of the ADA Advisory Council.

Duties include:

1. Advise the City Manager, Mayor and City Council on issues affecting people with disabilities;

2. Provide a public forum to identify, discuss and address issues relevant to people with disabilities;
3. Provide information from the public to the City's ADA Coordinator about disability concerns;
4. Provide information, educational opportunities and networking opportunities to all citizens with disabilities, their friends and families;
5. Establish criteria for prioritizing the remedial steps to address access needs within the community. Approve the updated community transition plan;
6. Develop operating procedures for the ADA Advisory Council;
7. Review City government program, service and activity access for physical, sensory, or other impediments; and
8. Review City codes with the City's Legal Department relating to disability rights and access.

Ms. Stanley suggested the group focus on the Duties and build activities around them. Common themes included educating the public, reviewing City codes, updating the transition plan, and making recommendations to the Governing Body.

The biggest thing the group needs to do before approaching the GB is to know, "What's your 'ask'?" and being able to articulate it. Having issues prioritized, studied and vetted, and the City Manager's involvement, is advised prior to contacting the GB. Regarding education and outreach, the Communication Director, Gretchen Spiker, can assist.

2. bird scooters revisited

Susan stated that it is hours before scooters are removed from areas blocking accessibility, no tickets are being issued, and she doesn't see the situation improving. Ms. Stanley said she would look into it.

There was much discussion about the contract between the City and bird. It was mentioned that it is still just a pilot program that comes due this fall. Ms. Stanley suggested that those who have issues with the program come to GB meetings and share their views.

Nick said he thinks they are extremely useful. Bob said that we have to coexist in the transportation environment. He suggested the group tell the Council what is not working from an ADA standpoint, that it is group members' duty to protect rights under ADA, and tell them what needs to be done.

Toward the end of the meeting, Bob said members of the group need to start carrying more of a load and put together a work plan on what the group wants to accomplish this next year. Also, the group needs to promote itself as the voice for those with disabilities so they know they have someone to come to. "We need to set sail and say, 'Here is what we want to do, this is where we are going,' do more promoting in the City."

Bob suggested that all members answer, "Here is where I think we need to go" to get a jumpstart on the discussion.

Adjourned

Next Meeting: Sept. 14, 2022

Non-ADA Business: None

Meeting adjourned.

Scheduled the next meeting for Aug. 10, 2022

Adjourn