

## **Agenda provided for the Sept. 14, 2022, Meeting for reference purposes**

### Welcome & Introductions

### Additions and Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

### Public Comments, Public Outreach

### New Business

1. Discussion with Chris Stockwell and Mahir Modgil with bird scooters.
2. Next month's guest: City Mayor Mike Padilla

### Old Business

1. Reset – What the Council wants to accomplish next.  
“Here is where I think we need to go.”
2. Committee Updates
  - a. Emergency Management
  - b. LE Training Review
  - c. ADA Promotions
3. ADA Webpage content

### Report on any ADA compliance complaints

### Non-ADA Council related issues/questions

### Schedule the next meeting for Oct. 12, 2022 Adjourn

## **ADA Advisory Council Minutes Sept. 14, 2022**

### Attendance:

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

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

### Welcome & Introductions

Special Guests: Bird Scooter managers Chris Stockwell, manager from middle of the country to the east, and Mahir Modgil, General Manager of Operations in the Great Plains Midwest Division.

Additions and Approval of the Agenda and Minutes - Approved

Public Comments, Public Outreach - None

### New Business

4. Discussion with Chris Stockwell and Mahir Modgil with bird scooters.

Chris said the scooter industry that has taken off in the past 5 years; that it is in its infancy stage. He the input they get from different committees and councils helps them adjust to what

they believe is useful transportation for a lot of people. He said they can tailor a program to Topeka.

Chris said the key is to educate riders and incentivized them to properly manage the scooters they use. He said they also have a team that helps to remedy situations when they are not parked in the right place, that they pick them up and move them.

Councilman Michael Byington asked them how they educate the public. He suggested a solution might be to designate parking areas with paint or a sign and place a sound-making device on them so they can be identified by those who are blind or sight impaired.

Mahir said they could do a better job educating their fleet managers on where to place scooters on site. To educate riders, an email is sent to them after the fact telling them, "Here is the proper way to park scooters." It is also finding some scooters, for instance in an apartment complex or parking garages because the GPS won't work.

Steve asked about what happens if a battery runs out. Mahir said that there are actually two batteries, one that operates the unit, the other that manages the tracking system, etc.

Kim asked Mahir how the fleet managers know what to do. Chris said that when they start operations in a new city, they hire someone with operational and entrepreneur experience as an independent contractor. Their compensation is based on the number of rides. The more accurate they are in placing scooters, the more they are compensated.

Michael said that the scooters are very quiet and those who are sight-impaired are at risk of being struck. Mahir said the units have bells and that rider etiquette governs their use. Michael said that it shouldn't be up to the discretion of the rider, that each one should be equipped with something that emits an audible signal, such as the back-up signal on commercial vehicles.

Chris said that while safety is a 100 percent priority, it is balanced with providing the user a comfortable experience and that it might not be pleasant if it beeped all the time a rider is on it. He said the topic is worth further discussion internally at Bird. Michael countered that people have become used to audible pedestrian signals at intersections. Steve pointed out, however, that deaf people can't hear them.

Near the end of the discussion, Mahir explained how to sign up to use a scooter. Chris offered that there is a media kit provided to the communities. They also said they would do events in a city if requested, such as "Bird 101" training.

Anthony asked them if they had an ADA consultant or person at Bird that can provide educational materials and ADA guidance to users and the general public. Chris said they do not have someone dedicated to ADA issues but do have people who focus on policy, which includes handling ADA issues that exist.

#### 5. Next month's guest: City Mayor Mike Padilla

David announced that the Mayor could not make the October meeting but that the City Manager could. The Mayor plans to attend the December meeting.

## Old Business

1. Reset – What the Council wants to accomplish next. “Here is where I think we need to go.”

Bob said that the process is a strategic one. “We need to understand where we want to be going, what our real mission is, and at the end of the day, if we want more representation with disability issues. We need to get more representation for those with disabilities. Need to get our head around who we are, what we want to do, and what do we want to accomplish.”

Steve suggested that we do a survey among agencies and individuals who advocate for/support/are consumers of services for those with disabilities.

Bob said, “That is brilliant because we represent them. There are those (agencies, individuals) who understand what is going on out there. That is a great place to get started.”

Anthony said we could mirror the survey off the Parking Survey format. “We have done something similar in terms of the parking survey. We got a lot of feedback. It could be something similar to that, a process we have already done. That could get us started relatively quickly.”

Steve said to come with ideas of what questions should be on the survey.

Joe said first she wants to present findings to the city council. “We still need to do that. “We need to let the public know what the findings were. We need to follow through on the last survey.”

Anthony responded, “We presented to Council in April that we did the survey. I would just suggest to have city staff put the information out, to get it (parking survey result dissemination) on track, find out when it can be presented, and go through the city process.”

Anthony said that a question could be, “Are you aware of the City of Topeka’s ADA Advisory Council? What do you know about it?” Another could be, “What level of accessibility is there to City facilities and programs. What needs to be improved?” He said it could be in a bullet-point format to assist in pinpointing the perceived needs by department, such as emergency management, law enforcement, etc.

Steve said that maybe we can overlap one with the other - the Parking Survey results and the results from the Agency Survey, then present both to the City Council. Joe responded that we need to present the Parking Survey now.

Steve suggested that a subcommittee be created to help better identify the target audience for the agency survey - agencies and individuals. He also said that at the next meeting we need to separate out the Parking and Agency surveys, to “not make it overly complicated.”

The rest of the agenda (following here) was suspended due to time.

## 2. Committee Updates

- a. Emergency Management
- b. LE Training Review

c. ADA Promotions

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Adjourn

City Attorney Amanda Stanley's Guidance - Next Page

From the August 2022 meeting minutes:

## 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.