



CITY OF TOPEKA

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ADA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 8, 2023
1:00 pm, [Zoom Meeting](#)

Members Present: Joe Cheray, Steve Schoenberg, Michael Byington, Kim Dietrich, Anthony Fadale, & Wulf James.

Members Absent: Nicolas Trammell

City Staff: Ernestor De La Rosa, Chief DEI Officer and ADA Coordinator & David Bevens, Public Works Division.

Guests: ShaMecha King Simms, Chair, Citizen Advisory Council

- Welcome & Introductions:
 - Ernestor De La Rosa, Chief DEI Officer and ADA Coordinator for the City of Topeka. Ernestor briefly introduced himself and explained his role as the City's new Chief DEI Officer and ADA Coordinator.
- Approval of Agenda and Minutes: Michael Byington moved to approve the agenda and minutes; Wulf James seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.
- Public Comment: None.
- New Business:
 - ADA Activities
 - Ernestor and David met with Ray Petty, Capacity-Building Coordinator, Great Plains ADA Center. Ernestor shared that Ray has a wealth of knowledge of and connections in the ADA area.
 - Ernestor met with Robert Cooper, Executive Director at the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and hard of Hearing the Kansas Relay Center. Ernestor relayed that the city is committed to improving its communication procedures for those who are deaf and hard of hearing. He noted that there are several avenues for the hearing and non-hearing to communicate with each other. However, there is a lack of knowledge on the part of staff of the procedure to successfully do so.
- Old Business:
 - Updated flyer - The council approved by consensus two changes to the flyer: Language regarding an initiative to a full-time ADA Coordinator was removed and the contact email address was changed from David's

email to ada@topeka.org.

- Annual report to City Council - The presentation is set for April 4, 2023. The council hopes to have it finalized at the March 8 monthly meeting. If more time is needed to prepare it, a special meeting will be held on March 15. The presentation must be submitted to the City Clerk by March 29.

- ADA compliance complaints: David received a complaint regarding inaccessible aisles at a retail store near SW 21st and SW Wanamaker. While the city doesn't have jurisdiction over existing businesses regarding ADA wheelchair accessibility (that is something addressed during the building permit or occupancy permit process), the Council can bring it to their attention for voluntary compliance. The Disability Rights Center of Kansas, a non-governmental non-profit, advocates for those with disabilities in these kinds of situations.

- Non-ADA Council issues or questions:

- Next meeting- Wednesday, **March 8, 2023, 1:00 pm**

- Adjourned