



CITY OF TOPEKA

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Office
City Hall, 215 SE 7th St
Topeka, KS 66603

785-368-3917
www.topeka.org
edelarosa@topeka.org

ADA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

1:00 pm, [Zoom Meeting](#)

Members Present: Steve Schoenberg, Chair, Joe Cheray, Vice Chair, Anthony Fadale, Kim Dietrich, Michael Byington, and Carrie Hagemann

Members Absent: Nicholas Trammell, Robert Nugent, and Aricles “Wulf” James

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

Guest: Sara Hale

- Welcome & Introductions:
 - Carrie Hagemann, our newest member of the ADA Advisory Council, introduced herself. Councilmembers present then introduced themselves.
 - Sara Hale, a guest of Steve’s, was present as she is considering applying to be a member of the ADA Advisory Council.
- Public Comments, Public Outreach
 - Joe said she placed the recently created flyer about the ADA Council on tables at the Kansas Capitol during “Kansans for Bodily Autonomy Advocacy Day”, March 6.
 - Steve spoke about the upcoming ADA symposium in Kansas City, MO, in May. He, Joe, ED and David plan to attend.
- Approval of Agenda and Minutes: Both the agenda and minutes were approved unanimously. Anthony later asked for a correction to the date at the top of the March agenda, which was immediately corrected.
- Public Comment: None
- New Business:
 - Scooter update and discussion
 - Michael attended a national leadership conference for presidents of state organizations of the blind and visually impaired. He reported he learned the California legislature passed a law requiring scooter operators to carry liability insurance to cover medical bills for injured third parties. He questioned what the City requires from scooter operators regarding paying medical expenses for those injured by either a rider or by an unknowing pedestrian tripping over a scooter

blocking accessible sidewalks or other public infrastructure. ED said he would ask the City attorney. (After the meeting, ED learned from the City Attorney that the scooter companies are liable for medical expenses incurred by a third party injured by a scooter, including one that creates a trip hazard blocking accessibility. Regarding how to promote change, ED said the best time to speak up is during a Council meeting where a scooter company is asking for renewal of their contract.

- City of Topeka website redesign plans in relation to the ADA discussion
 - Ernestor said the City of Topeka website will be redesigned by the end of the year. He will ensure it will be ADA compliant. Michael asked to make sure the designer is familiar with ADAG and how to design well for low-vision and speech-compatibility users. Ernestor said those were included as a requirement of the designer in the Request for Proposal. It is also a focus of the City's website redesign review committee.
- ADA complaint process plan
 - Ernestor said the City staff is in the process of establishing a formal process for processing ADA complaints and requests. The Advisory Council will be included in the process. Michael stated that it should be clear what the Advisory Council has jurisdiction over and what it does not, and that the process include a contact list for the appropriate organization to handle the issue.
- Old Business:
 - Review and approve the annual report to Topeka Governing Body - April 4, 2023. Members of the group said they had reviewed the PowerPoint presentation draft. Michael moved to approve it and Anthony seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Steve, Joe, ED and David will create the script.
- ADA compliance complaints:
 - Ernestor said the following complaints or request are under consideration by the appropriate City department and that ADA staff would report back. They are:
 - NOTO parking north of Gordon St. on Kansas Avenue
 - Building accessibility issue from the parking area at The Market, 528 SE Adams St.
 - Request for "blind friendly" street crossings on SW Gage Blvd. at SW 17th and/or SW 19th streets. 3 people making request. Michael offered information about deaf blind accommodations, which signal brand is best, etc. Resource.
 - SW 29th St. sidewalk sections on the north side in poor condition between SW Indian Trail and SW Gage Blvd.

Joe asked about the status of plans to build a sidewalk on NE Porubsky Drive. David said he would add it to the list.
- Non-ADA Council issues or questions:
 - Michael reported that there would be a rally in front of the United States Treasury in Washington, D.C. on March 10 protesting that department's failure to create currency more easily identifiable as ordered to do so several years ago. The order mandated accessible features, such as different textures or sizes, be included in new currency to make it more accessible for those who are blind or visually impaired.
- Next meeting- Wednesday, **April 12, 2023, 1:00 pm**
- Adjourn: 2:22 p.m.