



CITY OF TOPEKA

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ADA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

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

Members Present: Steve Schoenberg, Chair, Joe Cheray, Vice Chair, Carrie Hagemann, Kim Dietrich, Michael Byington, Bob Nugent and Nicholas Trammell

Members Absent: Aricles “Wulf” James and Anthony Fadale

City Staff: Ernestor De La Rosa, Chief DEI Officer and ADA Coordinator, Zaynah Afada, DEI Sr. Program Coordinator & David Bevens, Communications Specialist.

- Welcome & Introductions:
- Approval of Agenda and Minutes: Joe moved to accept; Carrie seconded. Passed unanimously
- New Business:
 - Housing Programs - A presentation regarding the City’s housing programs was made by Renee Criqui, Sr. Program Administrator. Her boss, Carrie Higgins, Housing Interim Director, was also present. Renee explained program details. A questioned was raised if the installation of a fence for a pet is included. Renee said she would check. Another question was asked about who should be contacted if there are landlord issues. Renee said to contact Housing and Credit Counseling Inc. (HCCI) about landlord issues.
 - ADA Advisory Board Meetings- Determine length of time of meetings. Ernestor explained that he is okay with meetings running over the 60 minute duration but would like to make them an hour long. The group agreed by consensus.
- Old Business:
 - KOMA Training Video. Questions or comments? - About half of the group has watched the video provided by City Legal. David sent the link again to members.
 - City of Topeka website redesign update - Previously, ED said the city is revamping its website. An RFQ garnered 18 webpage developers. That list has been narrowed down to 3 companies. ED said that as the ADA Coordinator, he always has questions about ADA issues on the forefront of his comments. He said he hopes by next year the City has a new website that has the ADA components that our community needs.
- ADA compliance complaints:

ED said the following are in various stages of the implementation process in City

Engineering.

- NOTO parking north of Gordon St. on Kansas Avenue
- Request for “blind friendly” street crossings on SW Gage Blvd. at SW 17th and/or SW 19th streets.
- SW 29th St. sidewalk sections on the north side in poor condition between SW Indian Trail and SW Gage Blvd. Ongoing
- Other
 - BIRD scooters - Ed and Dave are talking about doing a video on how to park BIRD scooters around Topeka. ED said BIRD’s contract comes up in September. That would be the best time to share your thoughts, good or bad, about the program. Some advocated for eliminating them from Topeka while another said it is a “godsend” for many who have a disability or no affordable transportation.
- Next meeting- Wednesday, **June 14, 2023, 1:00 pm**
 - The City of Topeka Fire Department will present next time about its programs.
- Adjourned - 2 p.m.