

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

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## **ADA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

1:00 pm, Zoom Meeting

Present: Chair Steve Schoenberg, Anthony Fadale, Monique Vopat, Carrie Hageman, Kim Dietrich, Joe

Cheray-Wildheart, Bob Nugent, & Wulf Roby

Members Absent: Nicholas Trammell & Michael Byington

Guests: Susan McClacherty & Marilyn Lind

Staff: Ernestor De La Rosa, Zaynah Afada, ASL Interpreter Katie, & ASL Observer Jenna

• <u>Welcome & Introductions</u>: Members present introduced themselves.

• <u>Approval of Agenda and Minutes:</u> Ernestor stated that the meeting minutes for September meeting minutes were shared with all ADA Council members. The motion to accept the minutes for September was made by Monique and seconded by Joe. The motion was passed unanimously.

### • New Business:

O Letter of Support for Public Works: Steve shared that a letter of support was provided to the City of Topeka for a road improvement grant on South East Quincy between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Ernestor Shared that the Public Works Department is applying for a grant with the Kansas Department of Transportation. Public Works requested a letter of support for the project from the ADA Advisory Council to include in the grant application.

#### • Old Business:

- Ocity's ADA Grievance Process: Ernestor provided updates for the grievance procedure, stating it has been edited to reflect the feedback from the ADA Advisory Council. He asked for the council's approval of the procedure to have this process available on the website and implemented.
  - Steve asked if there would be an ASL interpretation of the procedure for visual aids. Ernestor stated an ASL interpretation can be added after inquiring with the communications department. Wulf suggested using an audio reader service as an option. Joe asked if the city or the individual would pay for the interpretation or translation service; Ernestor stated it would be the city's responsibility. Monique asked if the form would be fillable online; Ernestor said he is working with IT to make this accommodation possible—a motion to approve the ADA Grievance Procedure was made by Wulf (via chat) and seconded by Monique. The motion passed unanimously.

- Quincy St. Street Parking: Ernestor stated that Public Works staff could not join the meeting this month because of a staff retreat; however, they will be available to participate in the November meeting. Any questions or concerns discussed can be taken to the Public Works staff. Members of the ADA Council decided to continue this discussion in November.
- O Bird Scooters Contact: Ernestor provided an overview of the contract and the expiration date on Page 4, Article 3. Joe shared concern about the time frame of the response to people's complaints regarding scooters being left where they are not supposed to be. Ernestor shared that the manager can be brought into the next meeting to discuss concerns. Kim shared that the scooters are sometimes on the sidewalk, which could be challenging to move. Anthony asked what the reporting process from Bird looks like if there is an issue getting it documented. Ernestor explained that the complaint would go to the manager, additional complaint process could be discussed. Ernestor shared that if a resident reports directly to Bird Scooters, he would not hear about it unless he is copied in the email. Questions regarding revenue and the purpose of the scooters were asked; Ernestor will provide that information during the next meeting. Council asked if there could be a link on the City webpage to include the number of complaints from the public as a reporting mechanism.

### • Public Comment:

- O Marilyn: Expressed concerns regarding changes to the trails from 29<sup>th</sup> and Fairlawn to Gage. There is a lack of accessibility for people with guide dogs or wheelchairs. The walk areas are narrow. Ernestor said he is happy to follow up and requested a forward of the emails sent to the city regarding the concerns.
- O Joe: Shared her concerns about recent interaction. She contacted the mayor's office regarding the homeless issues, and the Mayor's Assistant was rude. She is upset and appalled by how the Mayor's Assistant speaks to people. The assistant made sure not to allow Joe to talk with the Mayor. Ernestor will get in touch with Joe regarding the process of this complaint.
- Anthony thanked Ernestor and Monique for assisting with transportation for the FCC Listening Tour.
- Next meeting- Wednesday, November 8, 2023
  - o The Public Works Department will provide a presentation
- <u>Adjourn 2:00 pm.</u>