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ADA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

1:00 pm, Zoom Meeting

Present: Chair Steve Schoenberg, Michael Byington, Anthony Fadale, ASL Interpreter Doris, Jady Smith, Carrie Hageman, Wulf Roby, Ray Petty, Kim Dietrich, Joe, Bob Nugent,

Members Absent: Nicholas Trammell, Susan McClacherty, Monique Vopat, Marilyn Lynn,

Staff: Ernestor De La Rosa, Zaynah Afada

- Welcome & Introductions:
- Approval of Agenda and Minutes: The Motion to accept the minutes for the January meeting was made by Michael and seconded by Carrie. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Presentation
 - Great Plains ADA Center, ADA training for small businesses: Ray Petty shared information about presentations he has done in the past for businesses in Kansas through the Great Plains ADA Center, along with introducing the ADA Coordinator Certification Program for individuals who work for cities, counties, or businesses. He shared that he is happy to assist the ADA Advisory Council in any way he can with their goal of educating private businesses about ADA compliance.
 - Kin asked if he provided documents for the business to read. Ray responded with a yes. Information can also be provided in person, virtually, or with PowerPoint. Kim shared a story about a community member asked by the business they visited to leave their support animal outside.
 - Michael shares updates on FFRB traffic signals and how they are regarded in the new Prowag Regulation. Which is specific about the level of access Topeka does not have. He shared that the complaint is moving forward, but the issues will most likely be addressed that RRFBs being installed do not include the appropriate accessibility feature. He shared that many people with sensory impairments feel the information needed is more of what is provided by a fully accessible traffic signal under those regulations. He also shares his opinion on why the automated stop call system on the buses is more effective than having the driver call the stops.
 - Ray says he does not have much information on RRFBs and will check on that through the access board. Ray also said if there is an automated way for people to know where their stops are and if the bus driver is aware if an individual on the bus is deaf or visually impaired, that would help make sure they know when they're at their stop. Michael shared several discussions with the access board, who shared that the final Prowag Regulation has been

published and is being brought into full function. The issue with the buses is that having the driver's call stops is impractical, and they change buses daily.

- Bob shared that the new buses could not be equipped with the call systems because the manufacturers failed to meet the contract's requirements. The system is being replaced at this time. Double Map App is active and can assist visually with stops on individuals' smartphones.
 - Members of the council shared that the Double Map App needs to be better advertised. Michael shared this is still an issue for individuals with low vision.
- New Business:
 - Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair
 - Kim Nominates Joe as Chair; Joe accepted
 - Anthony motioned to have Joe serve as chair of The ADA Council, and Kim seconded the motion. Motion Passed unanimously.
 - Vice-Chair
 - Michael nominated Kim as Vice Chair
 - Michael motioned to have Kim serve as the vice chair, and Anthony seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Old Business:
 - Bird Scooter Update: Ernestor shared there have been no changes to the contract for Bird Scooters.
- Public Comment:
 - Anthony suggested having public works staff drive around the city in buses to observe how the potholes affect public transportation.
 - Ernestor said he is happy to continue the conversation with Anthony and Public Works over an email and Zoom.
 - Michael shared that a client shared that Lyft is no longer accepting rides after 3 p.m., but it is required to maintain the same hours as public transportation.
 - Bob responded with accurate information. Michael and Bob will follow up with one another separately.
 - Joe asked where potholes are being fixed because they have not fixed any on the west side. Ernestor responded by sharing information on the SeeClickFlix App that can be used to share information about utilities and prioritization.
 - Kim said she would send an email to Ernestor for a follow-up.
- Next meeting- Wednesday, April 10, 2024
- Adjourn – 1:58 pm.