



Diversity Equity and
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ADA Advisory Council Agenda

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

1:00 pm, Zoom Meeting

Present: Chair Joe Charey, Robert Nugent, Steve Schoenberg, Michael Byington, Anthony Fadale, Monique Vopat

Members Absent: Wulf Roby, Vice-Chair Kim Dietrich

Visitors: ASL Interpreter, John Schardine, Remy

Staff: Community Engagement Director and Interim DEI Officer Monique Glaude', Diversity Equity and Inclusion Sr. Program Coordinator Zaynah Afada

Welcome & Introduction:

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

- Steve motioned to approve the agenda, and Michael seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Michael motioned to approve the meeting minutes with an edit to the first bullet under old business to replace retreat with celebration. Steve seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Bylaws Change: Joe shared that a one-year term is not enough time for the chair to effectively understand the role of the Chair. She asked members of the ADA to consider changing that portion of the Bylaws. Director Glaude' shared that for changes to be made, members of the HRC need to review the current Bylaws and let staff know what they'd like to change. Steve suggested creating a Bylaws committee to review and recommend changes.
 - Steve motioned to establish a Bylaws subcommittee. Michael seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Subcommittee will include Joe, Steve, Monique V.
- Strategic Planning Takeaways: Joe shared she was pleased with the strategic planning meeting and believed it was helpful. She shared there were issues needing to be addressed. Joe will email Director Glaude' regarding those issues.
 - Steve shared he'd like to see the strategic planning as goal setting to keep improving and review where the ADA has been successful.

- Anthony shared that the feedback session for the public and a strategic planning meeting could be held during the middle of the year instead of the Winter season.
- Michael shared promoting the event on social media may bring more people to the December and January meetings. He objects to the input meeting being in July and August because there can be a lot of changes during those six months until the retreat. He thinks the planning retreat needs to be a month after the input meeting.
- Steve believes the end of year planning took place at the wrong time, which may have been the reason for lack of attendance. Perhaps changing the time or having the event on the weekend for people to attend.
- Director Glaude' shared that the ADA has a limit of \$1000 to spend on their events for 2025. This needs to be spent by November 15, 2025 with no exceptions. She encouraged the ADA to be active on social media to let the community know the ADA is active, leading up to events.

Old Business:

- City of Topeka ADA Jurisdiction and Predatory Apartment Complexes: Joe asked what is currently being done to address the issues brought to the city's attention regarding the properties that were not up to code. John Schardine shared that property maintenance addresses apartment complexes based on complaints. His staff does have the means to survey the complex, however, they needed to be invited by an occupant to enter the apartment for inspection. A copy of the 2012 international property maintenance code was shared with members of the Council for review and better understanding of property maintenance limitations. John shared that Lew McGinnis' property management has been in Topeka since 2016. All of their cases are repeat offences with fines and fees that are not paid. The city needs to create a relationship with the county to help identify and hold the property owners accountable. John shared that this conversation has been discussed with the Shawnee County Commissioners.
 - John stressed the importance of having individuals struggling with their property managers to get their unit up to code, make the call and submit the complaints themselves.
 - Michael asked at what point a unit can be declared uninhabitable without forcing the person living in the unit to move out until they're ready. John responded that it's hard to gauge how much the occupants want to push the issue. Property maintenance staff looks at ventilation, occupation, structure, egress, etc. Suppose it's decided the unit is uninhabitable. In that case, steps will be taken to ensure the individual has a place to live before condemning the unit unless there are extreme cases like fire or flooding.

ADA Coordinator and Staff Update:

- N/A

ADA Council updates

- Joe shared that the MTPO Board meeting will take place on Thursday, February 13, should there be any immediate concerns, it will be brought to the attention of the ADA members.

Public Comment:

- No comments.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Adjourn

Meeting 1:59 pm.