



Diversity Equity and
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ADA Advisory Council Agenda

Wednesday, January 08, 2025

1:00 pm, Zoom Meeting

Present: Chair Joe Charey, Vice-Chair Kim Dietrich, Robert Nugent, Carrie Hageman, Steve Schoenberg, Michael Byington, Anthony Fadale, Monique Vopat

Members Absent: Wulf Roby

Visitors: ASL Interpreter, 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.
- Steve motioned to approve the meeting minutes, and Monique seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business: City of Topeka ADA jurisdiction and predatory apartment complexes, Michael Byington.

- When Michael went through some of the pictures sent out regarding maintenance of access in some of the apartment complexes in Meadowlark, it was suggested that this particular instance could be a code violation rather than ADA compliance. He suggested expressing the concern to the City Council but also made specific referrals to the City's legal and code enforcement.
- Steve would like to make a recommendation to the council for the city to take over the issue.
- Joe recommends that we wait until next month, when Code can join us, bring these issues to the code department, and see what they recommend.

ADA City Ordinance-Staff:

- With the concern of wanting to know more about the ADA jurisdiction for what you are able to do, Zaynah added that along with the duties and responsibilities of members of the ADA, this ordinance does not have enforcement authority, and

the city's enforcement authority is also limited, especially when dealing with private property.

- A recommendation was made to contact the Department of Justice or the Disability Rights Center of Kansas to hold a presentation on how the complaint process works for a private citizen.

ADA Public Input - Monique Vopat

- Monique shared that an individual from the Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy approached Anthony, who received information from the End-of-Year Celebration. The individual instructed her to contact the city if she had any questions or suggestions.
- Specific details will be provided regarding the feedback from the End-of-Year Celebration at the retreat.

Old Business:

- End-of-Year Celebration Review:
 - Joe felt that the retreat was a success. She suggested following up with the elected officials who could not attend the retreat, sending them a summary of the event at their request, and reaching out to the Council if they have any questions.
- ADA Retreat Updates:
 - Joe requested a motion to approve the menu for the ADA retreat.
 - Steve motioned to approve the menu for the retreat, which Kim seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Joe reviewed the ordinance in the meeting packet and noted what needed to be done at the retreat, which will be reflected in the agenda.
 - Steve suggested we discuss the retaliation Action Ordinance at the ADA retreat.

ADA Community Information Session Updates:

- No new updates to share.

ADA Coordinator and Staff Update:

- Complaint regarding a resident at TRM that was not being provided with adequate resources. Legal was involved, and the complaint was referred to the Department of Justice.
- The complaint that was received from Anthony regarding the sidewalk at the Topeka Law Enforcement Center is in progress, and staff will update the ADA when we receive the information.
- Reminder that the city has a complaint form on the city webpage if they are not able to get in contact with staff. Members of the ADA are encouraged to use the citizen feedback form on the city webpage and share the form with the public.
- Staff shared that In February, we would like the members of the ADA to begin thinking about who they would like to nominate as the new chair and vice chair.

ADA Council updates

- Joe presented to the governing body in April of 2024 to provide updates on what the ADA has done and what they will do moving forward. She shared that another presentation will be to the governing body in April 2025.
 - The MTPO Tac board update was moved to the February meeting.
 - Joe requested that staff look into changing the bylaws to extend the chair and vice chair term.
- Public Comment:
 - No comments.
- Next meeting: Wednesday, February 12, 2025
- Adjourn – Meeting 2:00 pm.