

Wichita/Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board
Wednesday, May 22nd, 2019
Envision Basement Conference Room, 610 N. Main
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Voting Members Present

Bob Hamilton	Jane Otis	Dave Calvert	Sanford J. Alexander, III
Brian Powers	Dr. David Waldie	Craig Perbeck	Lisa Vayda
Crissy Magee	Ronald Tracy	Rick Rader	Clark Stevens
Raven Alexander	Nancy Duling	Sean Beebe	Dorsha Kirksey

Voting Members Absent

Tiffany Nickle	Grady Landrum	Randy Roebuck	Ed Koon
Brian Held	Steven Walters	Michael Fowler	

City/County Staff Present (Non-Voting Members)

David Perricone	Donte Martin	Migwi Karugu	Jane Link
Erik Houghton			

I. Welcome, Announcements & Introductions – Craig Perbeck
Craig opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance. All in attendance introduced themselves and which organization, city council, or county commissioner they represent.

II. Meeting Minutes
A. March 2018 meeting minutes. Clarifying comment by Raven Alexander on New Business. Item C 2: New fare boxes are capable of integrating with apps and RFID chips. They are replacement equipment.

III. New Business
A. Update on Library Bus Access Issue – Erik Houghton
1. We are waiting on improvements to Sycamore before moving forward.
2. Signage has been placed at the stop to warn drivers not to obstruct the area.

Craig: My understanding is that if a rider request to be dropped off at the accessible spot, the driver will do so.

Raven: They will make the effort to do so.

Sanford: That accommodation works coming off the bus but not for the return trip. We've been talking about this issue for over a year. I don't think this can be left alone.

Bob: What needs to be done or who needs to be contact to make sure we aren't talking about this for another year?

Donte: The right people have been contacted. I do not have answer for why it is taking so long. I know that they are actively aware of it and the steps that need to be taken are being scheduled. If it is helpful, city staff can come in and answer for the timeline

Craig: Another issue to bring up to Mike Tann is that it could be a training issue.

Raven: I would not say it is a comfort level issue with the drivers. If a car is obstructing them, the bus will not be able to make the turn.

Craig: Maybe the city should pass an ordinance and attach a large fine to parking there as a deterrent.

Sanford: I think we need a target date set and someone has to be accountable if the date is missed.

Donte: I will make sure that the right people come here to answer these questions.

B. City ADA Coordinator Position – Dave Calvert

1. Dave walked through the working draft of the letter the board agreed to send the city regarding their search for a new ADA Coordinator.
2. Copies were distributed to the board.
3. We can add in an brief explanation of the evolution of the position
4. The ADA coordinator needs to be an advocate

Bob: Why not combine both the city and county ADA coordinator positions into one.

Dave C: That is an idea that was first broached 15yrs ago. It ought to be looked at again.

Donte: The city and county have looked at a number of opportunities for functional consolidation. If the board feels that it would be served well with a combined position, I will follow up with the City and County Managers.

Dave C: There is a difference of opinion on whether or not we should recommend that the ADA Coordinator be a full time position. If it were combined, it would no doubt be a full time position. The ADA Coordinator is almost two separate jobs because employer responsibilities are Title I and Access is Title II and Title III. The city had separated the duties of Title I from Title II and III.

Bob: Would the politics be a barrier?

Donte: I don't think so. We have been having ongoing discussion with the county to consolidate functions and the electeds have been encouraging those discussions.

Dave C: Should we include the consolidation piece in our draft letter?

Donte: I think the manager has a clear understanding of the expectations at this point.

Dave C: The City Manager called me after our last meeting to make sure that we understood the City's dedication to having a qualified ADA coordinator in a position where they have the time and resources to the job that needs to be done.

Craig: Are there any corrections or additions to the document?

Ron: Given footnote 1, should change numbered paragraph 2 to say training will be "provided" instead of "maintained."

Migiwi: The job qualifications can say that the candidate should have the certification or will earn it within a certain amount of time.

Donte: If this board were to provide a position paper to the City that would go a long way in explaining the need. We have asked for ADA certification, but it doesn't stop there.

5. Numbered paragraph #3
 - (i) Remove commentary
 - (ii) Strike out phrase "...to which we have become accustomed."

Bob: Who oversees the ADA Coordinator?

Donte: Brian reported to the City Engineer. Prior to that, it was a part time person reporting to the City Manager. ADA issues are team issues that flow through the Manager's Office. The important thing is that the ADA coordinator has access to both the City and County Managers.

Lisa: I don't see anything in the draft about financial budgeting understanding.

Dave C: I think that goes back to the settlement agreement, which requires the city to provide the necessary resources.

Sanford: I think we on the verge of recommending that the ADA Coordinator be housed in the City Manager's office and we are getting hung up on the Traffic Engineer. Maybe the city needs to find a traffic engineer and we can make recommendations for a position in the City manager's office so they can have access to the broader city/county team. Let's make that recommendation.

Crissy: ADA is too big for one person. The coordinator should know the ADA and law and what resources are available to them, but they cannot be an expert in every area. They guide an internal team of experts from various areas such as finance and project services.

Dave C: What is the city's schedule on this?

Donte: Everything that I've heard relates to discussions I have had with the manager except a detailed discussion on consolidation. Crissy is describing the regular course of doing business. We need a certified ADA coordinator. We understand the technical needs. We need to know what this person has to do with and for this board. I am hearing adaptive skills, the ability to convene people together, to be an advocate, the ability to get the attention of the manager and elected officials.

Craig: Those are soft skills that are hard to evaluate in a candidate.

Crissy: It is important to note that the ADA coordinator does have to take on an adversarial role.

Donte: What has been most helpful to me is hearing from this board about what those soft skills are that the new ADA coordinator will need.

IV. Public Comments (exception: taken out of order prior to New Business)

- A. Andrew Crane – Guiding Paws and a member of the local chapter of the National Federation for the Blind, ARIA representative.
 1. The bus stops in grass areas are not accessible
 2. ARIA app representatives met with the City Manager to talk about making Wichita a site access city.

- (i) ARIA app connects you to a live agent 24/7 to help the visually impaired get around the city
- (ii) Boston has recently become a site access city

Dave C: Do we have ARIA at the airport?

Donte Martin: Yes, and we are looking at options to expand that to other areas of the city.

Sanford: ARIA has been helpful with connecting to Uber drivers because they can see where the drivers are if they are having trouble finding your pick up location.

Andrew: I can demonstrate that after the meeting.

Sanford: I think ARIA is a valuable tool; however, I have concerns about how they make it work on a large scale.

Ron: The Uber pickup location at the airport does not seem accessible. Riders have to walk out past the parking structure and there is no signage to guide them.

Dave C: Is there a way to indicate on the Uber app that you have a disability

Sanford: No, but you can call the driver. It is just hard to communicate to the driver where I am sometimes.

V. Adjourn

The next meeting of the Wichita/Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26th at the Envision basement conference room, 610 N. Main.