

**Wichita/Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board**  
**Wednesday, July 22nd, 2020**  
**Webex Conference Call System**  
**10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Voting Members Present**

Raven Alexander	Ronald Tracy	Kate Bergamasco	Michael Fowler
Dorsha Kirksey	Crissy Magee	Tiffany Nickle	Craig Perbeck
Tiffany Nickle	Craig Perbeck	Grady Landrum	Lisa Vayda
Clark Stevens	Nancy Duling	Dr. David Waldie	Rick Rader
Brian Powers			

**Voting Members Absent**

Dr. Elvia Barraza	Sean Beebe	David Pracht	Brian Held
Ed Koon	Randy Roebuck	Dee Nighswonger	Jayne Otis
Steven Walters	Dave Calvert	Chris Rea	

**City/County Staff Present (Non-Voting Members)**

Connie Hammond	Jay Hinkel	Paul Gunzelman	Tricia Thomas
Jane Link	Shawn Mellies	Lee Carmichael	Michael Fessinger

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. June 2020 meeting minutes. A revision was made by Raven Alexander. She said that, under community updates under the transit section, it says Raven Alexander mentioned that free rides are not in place in Wichita due to social distancing reasons. Transit is only offering free rides on Saturday through June 27. Weekends should be scratched. They did not do weekend rides or any rides overall. It was also mentioned that Brian Powers was not at the last meeting. Craig said that, at the bottom of the minutes, Lisa Vayda mentioned the opportunity, “I stay home for rare,” which has a website that people can go to if they need help with funding for medication services. It helps people who have rare diseases during the pandemic. Raven Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Dorsha Kirksey. They were passed unanimously.

III. Committee Updates

A. Transit

Dorsha Kirksey: Feedback from Dorsha on the last transit meeting. The Director’s report was that their ridership consists of many people that depend on them for transportation. Their ridership was down 50%. The COVID response for the transit industry was discussed. Wichita Transit does not have dedicated funding like a portion of the sales tax. USD 259 gave Wichita Transit a list of requirements they have had assigned to them. The design teams will present it to the transit advisory board. She mentioned that they are trying to get the Wichita Transit system to the list of the community’s priorities.

Craig Perbeck: He asked if anyone is interested in being appointed to the Wichita Transit Advisory Board, or Dorsha said she would be willing to do it again. No one mentioned that they would like that appointment, so they moved forward with approving Dorsha. Craig will send a letter to the Wichita Transit Advisory Board with the letter appointing Dorsha.

#### B. Building-Tour of the Riverfront Stadium

Craig Perbeck: 5 people attended the first tour. A 20 percent chance of rain meant it rained during the whole time they were touring the facility. It stopped raining when they were finished. Parking was the main thing that was complained about. The concourse level takes you around the whole ball park. They toured the locker rooms, restrooms, and places you can rent out for events. The coach's locker room has an accessible shower. There is a way for people with wheelchairs and walkers to get out on the field. Paul Gunzelman was the tour guide.

Tiffany Nickle: Said that the accessibility was amazing

Craig Perbeck: Talked about the addition of the large changing table to the facility and how it helped people change.

Grady Landrum: Said it is accessible and that you're able to move around in the stadium well. He said they are willing to take out seating so that large groups of people in wheelchairs can occupy one area. He is concerned about the parking, but can do publicity about where to park and get rides.

Brian Powers: Asked: Does the Sedgwick County transit have a plan for transportation? Is it publicized?

Raven Alexander: Said there is a plan for Wichita Transit to provide shuttle services and things like that. Also, the downtown development offers parking.

Craig Perbeck: As a safety feature, the stadium put the netting all the way down the first and third base line. He said that another feature he likes it that the concourse is very wide. Vendors can be out there on the concourse, which makes for easy movement. Craig said that he cannot say enough good things about it.

Jay Gunzelman: Commented on the fact that this ballpark has the safety nets that go to the outposts

#### C. Naftzger Park

They will get a group together to look at any type of planning. They will make sure that they will utilize the one that helps people as needed. They looked at the changes around the foundation area, which involved changes in the tactile surface that will note the change in the water feature. The change in the texture was noted in that area around the water feature.

Craig: Said they checked the gate and dog walk part and saw that everything is alright there.

### IV. New Business

#### A. Construction zones and pedestrian access-Craig

There are concerns about blocking off the sidewalks and not having the appropriate signage. One area is where the sidewalk is blocked and one is on one side of the street. The only cue you have if walking on that sidewalk is actually approaching that part of the sidewalk. If you are blind or visually impaired, you would not know it was impossible until you got there.

B. Section 5310 Grant Funds Update-Tricia Thomas and Raven Alexander  
Tricia Thomas: WAMPO website has a lot of good information about 5310. The event will take place on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm. It is an applicant workshop. She said to go to [wampo.org/paratransit](http://wampo.org/paratransit) for details and email [tricia.thomas@wampo.org](mailto:tricia.thomas@wampo.org). Check out more details about 5310 at that website above. To be eligible for 5310, you must be a nonprofit or governmental organization that encourages collaboration with the private sector. Include her email in the minutes.

C. Replacement of the Board Chair –Craig Perbeck

Craig has declined to serve an additional 2 year term. The chair is typically someone who does not work for the city or county. The board often recommends things that the city and county would not want them to recommend. Craig asked if anyone is interested in chairing the board. Craig suggested someone who retired recently.

Craig: Says that the duties involve working together with the county intern to put together the agenda. The intern does the bulk of the other administrative duties. The chair also helps with ad-hoc meetings and subcommittee related things. He says the chair position does not take a lot of time. The main person doing the administrative and agenda related things is the County intern. He says it is no more than an hour of the month of the chair's time in work per month.

Michael Fowler: Graciously declined due to other obligations.

Dorsha Kirksey asked Brian Powers if that is something that he would consider.

Brian Powers said it is something he is thinking about. He requested help from Craig by asking him to serve as Vice Chair. Craig accepted the vice chair position. Brian said he has been on the board for 8 years. Brian said he will give it a shot, but will need help from Craig. He wants to do a good job with it.

Everyone on the board unanimously approved Brian Powers' appointment as chair of the Access Advisory Board. Craig accepted his appointment as vice chair.

V. Old Business

Crissy Magee gave an update on the signage and accessibility of the County buildings. She showed signs that have Braille at the bottom. The pamphlets that she has in Braille will be going out in the next few weeks. The pamphlets tell about the symptoms of COVID and to not come in the building if you are exhibiting symptoms.

Jay Hinkel requested an example be sent to Gary Janzen so he can make use of the signs also. Crissy said she will send the signs to Gary shortly.

Craig Perbeck: Had a rant last meeting about the tag office. Crissy agreed to check into it.

Crissy Magee: Said the concern was, during a visit to the Sedgwick County Tag Office in the month of June 2020, the individual with a disability was waiting an extended period of time, while the nondisabled members of the general public were being called to the counter. The individual's number was skipped, while nondisabled individuals were helped at the ADA counter. The other concern was the COVID-19 preventions. The customers and staff were not wearing masks and having chairs pushed too closely together in the waiting area. Crissy spoke with Sedgwick County Treasurer, Linda Kizzire. Linda Kizzire said that this does not violate Kansas or federal laws. The office is always open to ways to improve. The office wants to serve individuals with disabilities and those without, while adhering to federal and state laws. The Sedgwick County Tag office treats all customers equally, regardless of a disability. The Sedgwick County Treasurer's Office has taken the initiative to prioritize access to individuals with

disabilities. The office has three, fully-staffed ADA stations. These stations are at a height where the wheelchair bound customers can conduct business. In addition, the office provides chairs at these stations for ADA customers to sit while conducting business. All customers, whether disabled or not, are called in the order by which they are assigned in the queue. Fully staffed ADA stations are used for both disabled and nondisabled individuals. A physically disabled individual will never need to use an elevated, ADA non-compliant station. There are multiple ways by which an individual can enter the queue. There is a way to wait remotely that makes it so individuals do not need to wait inside for long periods of time in the tag office. This system tracks how long a customer may wait so a customer can show up to the tag office when their spot comes up. All customers can also do many tag office functions either online or by mail. A disabled individual will always be assisted at an open ADA station. Once it is their turn to be served by an employee, the tag office does not say that individuals with disabilities must be served before those without. The tag office cannot leave an ADA station entirely devoted to disabled customers because all stations are staffed by an employee and during busy times, they may have to help other customers. Tag office employees are instructed to come around the counter and work one-on-one with a customer who may have challenges using the taller workstations. Regarding COVID-19, the tag office has precautionary provisions in place that went into effect July 6, 2020. Signage is posted promoting social distancing, a mask must be worn in the building at all times. All staff and customers need to have a mask on before entering the building. However, staff are not refusing service to customers who refuse to use a mask. Tissues, masks, and hand sanitizer are available to customers upon request. In summary, ADA services are available, but they're not entirely devoted to disabled customers. This process is in compliance with federal and Kansas law.

Brian Powers: Asked if the complaint was investigated and, if so, what were the findings.  
Mike Fessinger, Assistant County Counselor, Sedgwick County: He is not aware of the specific complaint being investigated. He asked for clarification about what the allegation is. He explained how the system works based on his understanding. The system does its best to match the disabled individuals with the right counter as soon as possible.

Craig Perbeck: said that he thought it sounds like unequal access to the ADA counter.

## VI. Public Comments

A. Tom Page: the president of National Federation of the Blind of Kansas, is on the phone. They have a chapter in Wichita, the south-central chapter. They are talking about voting troubles they have been having. In 1996, he helped the America Vote Act. It provided for the first time the legal authority for states and counties to implement electronic voting. It has allowed, for the first time, secure, private, and independent balloting. Sedgwick County got those machines early on. There has been a disagreement between Secretaries of State across the nation regarding absentee ballots and other forms. The State of Kansas interprets voting laws. Many states have mechanisms to provide accessible absentee balloting. We are pushing right now to get Kansas on board with those states. This spring, when the shutdown occurred, the scheduled democratic primary was switched to an all-mail-in ballot format, which closed down the polling places. This has prevented blind people from accessing any of those machines. We were left with no solution for accessible voting. They sent letters to the Secretary of State concerning this issue. They have not heard anything back yet. Their group filed a complaint with

the Department of Justice on this issue. Since May, seven states have been instructed by federal judges to make changes immediately. He does not think that will happen in Kansas.

Craig Perbeck asked him: Do you have specific concerns with Sedgwick County polling places? State issues trickle down to the county level. Membership has brought these concerns to the County Election Board, but the county has chosen not to be a leader on this issue.

Grady Landrum asked: Is part of the problem access to the ballot or access to the voting facility or both?

Tom Page answered: In general, the problem is accessibility to any sort of absentee ballot. If you get yourself to the polling place, you can use the accessible voting option. Where this really came to a head is when the polling places were shut down. The options come to whether a blind person should risk the COVID infection and go downtown or have someone else fill out their ballot for them. COVID has amplified concerns around this issue.

Craig Perbeck said: the board can consider whether they want to send a letter to the County. This board looks at processes and sees if they can recommend changes and updates. Tom Page said Craig told him there is a board membership spot open for the National Federation of the Blind. He says they are looking at making an appointment to that board.

Ronald Tracy: Asked Craig about problems with doing Braille on the envelopes.

Craig Perbeck: Said it's an alternative format for people who are visually impaired. Not everyone has the option to have someone sit beside them and fill out their ballot for them. If you take that away, you take away a person's ability to vote. He said that he prefers mail-in ballots at the moment because he does not know how well things are sanitized at the polling stations and which people are there.

Dorsha Kirksey: Said this method of voting also lets them do so securely.

Tom Page: mentioned an example about a blind couple who each vote different ways. Secrecy of the polls is important to them. Bringing two separate readers in to read their ballots to them is a situation they find uncomfortable.

Raven Alexander: Requested a copy of the bylaws since they had been mentioned several times during the meeting. She said she has never seen a copy of the bylaws.

## VII. Adjourn

The next meeting of the Wichita/Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> on a virtual meeting platform.