

Wichita/Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board

Wednesday, April 24th, 2024

Envision/Zoom

10:00—11:30 a.m.

Minutes

Members Present

Brian Powers – Chair	Craig Perbeck-Vice Chair	Raven Alexander
Harley Anderson (z)	Andrew Crane	Kyelene Flaming (z)
Karen Flateau (z)	Stacey Fuller	Jill Kerschen
Jayne Otis	Tom Page (z)	Susie Ternes (z)
Cindi Unruh (z)	Lisa Vayda (z)	Virginia Zapote

City/County Staff Present

Mike Armour	Jacque Butler	Adrienn Clark
Elizabeth Ewers	Nate Johnson	

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- I. Welcome, Announcements & Introductions – Chair Brian Powers
 - a. Chair Brian Powers called the meeting to order with a quorum present.
 - II. Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion made by Andrew Crane to approve February 2024 minutes with the amendment of adding Vice-Chair Craig Perbeck’s name to the list of attendees; seconded by Vice-Chair Craig Perbeck. **12-0.**
 - III. Monthly Updates
 - a. Transportation Committee
 - i. Vice-Chair Craig Perbeck shared that there will be a variety of in-person and online opportunities to provide input on the transit system redesign.
 - ii. Raven Alexander said that concepts created from the first round of surveys will be presented to the community for feedback. An online survey will be open April 30th-May 31st. There will also be opportunities for feedback at District Advisory Boards, District breakfasts, pop-ups, Open Streets, etc.
 - iii. Website with information and survey: wichitatransitplan.com
 - b. Wheelchair-Accessible Transportation
 - i. Karen Flateau shared some information regarding wheelchair-accessible taxi service for non-medical trips.
 1. Three Medicaid programs offer certain perks each year; some had offered vouchers as a perk in the past.
 2. Karen spoke with Guardian Medical Transportation owner Seth Sanders, who shared that the required training and state

regulations make it difficult to drop prices. He suggested working with insurance companies to offer voucher programs again.

3. Sunflower program offers three free nonmedical rides per year; however, this is not well-communicated to clients.
- ii. Lisa Vayda suggested inviting Vicki Schmidt, Insurance Commissioner, to our next meeting.

IV. New Business

a. County parking garage: accessibility and safety concern

- i. Vice-Chair Craig Perbeck shared that an individual had an inaccessible and unsafe experience when using the County parking garage near the court house for jury duty. The parking attendant was unhelpful when the individual was trying to get their ticket upon entering the garage. Accessible parking spaces on the first level were filled, forcing the individual to park on a higher level. Finally, the elevators were out of order, so the individual had to navigate down the car ramps in their wheelchair, putting them in a very unsafe environment.
 1. As a County facility, it must be accessible, and there must be a way to report issues with accessibility.
 2. The parking garage is managed by a third-party company that contracts with the County.
 3. Craig would like to know what can be done to better prepare management companies to abide by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and deal with issues at this parking garage.
- ii. Kylene Flaming was made aware of the issue from Gary Janzen at the City of Wichita. She contacted the County Facilities team about the issue. She said that her understanding is that Courthouse Police were not contacted during this incident; Courthouse Police have a golf cart for transport.
- iii. Kylene said that this is not a violation of the ADA because there were an adequate number of parking spots in the garage. She said that this was a human issue that is being addressed through the County Facilities team.
- iv. Chair Brian Powers asked about the lack of elevators.
 1. Kylene Flaming said that elevators go out from time to time and there should be signage.
 2. Kylene thinks it is a good idea to have signage at the entrance if elevators are out of order.
- v. Chair Brian Powers asked if the person has been contacted regarding the issue after the fact.
 1. Kylene said that the process requires a formal complaint to be filed. She took the information that she was forwarded and responded to the individual explaining some of the information and apologizing for what occurred. She does not have all of the contact information to properly close the investigation.
- vi. Cindi Unruh shared that this person was someone on the Independent Living Resource Center board who reached out to Cindi after it happened.

Cindi then reached out to Gary Janzen. The person affected by the incident cannot get into a golf cart due to their disability. Golf carts being available is great, but they do not help in this case.

1. Cindi said that if this person had been hit by a car, the agency responsible for managing the parking garage and the County would have had huge lawsuits. The majority of people reporting for jury duty were elderly people who had disabilities of some sort—how do these people get access?
 2. Cindi pointed out that this also may have happened to others who do not know how to report it. This is a problem and someone has to take responsibility.
- vii. Kyelene will follow up with the facilities group and call a meeting of the board's Sedgwick County Internal Compliance Committee to discuss actionable steps to mitigate any future issues.
 - viii. Vice-Chair Craig Perbeck asked if he needs to work with the person to make sure that they submit a formal complaint.
 1. Kyelene said that yes, that is how she gets any complaints related to Sedgwick County services, programs, or buildings that the County owns or citizens are trying to access.
 - ix. Chair Brian Powers asked about prevention and how to keep this from occurring again.
 1. Kyelene said that she has already alluded to some things that can be done immediately: better communication at attendant booth, postings when elevators are out of order, facilities checking in with garage management to ensure that they have the right information.
- b. Audible pedestrian signals
 - i. Mike Armour said that this will be discussed with the local chapter of the National Federation of the Blind before bringing it to this board.
 - ii. Tom Page referenced the new rules regarding pedestrian right-of-way that he shared with the board.
 - iii. The National Federation of the Blind—South Central Kansas chapter meeting will be on the second Wednesday in June.
 - c. *Kansas Reflector* article discussion: state disability services funding
 - i. Lisa Vayda contacted the reporter, who shared that the legislature is expanding the funding pending the governor's final budget approval. It will still be an issue especially for mental health services.
 - ii. Chair Brian Powers said that this has been a problem for years and keeps getting worse. He proposed a resolution to send a letter regarding the issue from this board.
 - iii. Jacque Butler said that the City and County both set legislative agendas in the fall; this might be a good opportunity for the board to weigh in for the next legislative session.

- iv. Vice-Chair Craig Perbeck is concerned about this board communicating with the state since the board's function is to advise the City and County. He proposes that we advise the City and County and leave it up to them to elevate it to the state.
- v. Chair Brian Powers asked the board to send him their thoughts and he will draft a letter to be approved by the board. He also pointed out that members of the board can contact the City, County, or State on their own as private citizens.
- vi. Adrienn Clark and Jacque Butler said that the Chair can send the letter to the board via email, but any discussion must occur at an open meeting.
- vii. Motion by Tom Page to empower Chair Brian Powers to draft a letter on behalf of the board to the City and County with copies sent to other government levels including the governor, Kansas Department of Aging and Disabilities Secretary Laura Howard, and Disability Caucus; seconded by Lisa Vayda. **13-0.**

V. Announcements

- a. Chair Brian Powers shared that the board has upcoming elections for Chair and Vice-Chair in June. Nominations will be made at the May meeting.
- b. Kyelene Flaming said that representatives from INTRUST Bank Arena were not able to come today but will be at the May meeting to answer any questions.
- c. Tom Page said that the board is still waiting for a report on their ticketing system. Web access regulations for Title II have been released and stipulate that WC3AG 2.1 should be followed.

VI. Public Comment – There were no public comments.

VII. Adjournment