

# Wichita – Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board

May 27, 2009 - Meeting Minutes  
Independent Living Resource Center – 3033 West 2<sup>nd</sup> St. North

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** By David Calvert, Chair  
a. **Meeting began at 10:00 a.m.**

**Attendance for the WSCAAB:**

**Present:**

Sanford Alexander	David Calvert
De Eaton	Jason Gegen
Steve Hinds	Ed Koon
Sandy Martz	Craig Perbeck
Susan Robinson	Deb Umberger
Dr. David Waldie	

**Absent:**

Glen Davidson	Jennifer Foster-Farquhar
Julie Hedrick	Lori Lawrence
Grady Landrum	Tiffany Nickel
Ron Pasmore	Valerhy Powers
Marty Rothwell	Steve Stambaugh
John Sullivan	Nick Taylor

**City/County Staff Present:**

Jeanne Goodvin	City of Wichita ADA Coordinator
Lindsey Mahoney	Sedgwick County ADA Coordinator
Jay Hinkel	Deputy City Attorney
Charles Karugu	ADA Associate Engineer, City of Wichita
Brian Coon	City of Wichita Traffic Engineer
John Simpson	City of Wichita Law Department

**Guests:**

Bob Hamilton, VA

- David Calvert welcomed new member Sandy Martz. New member Glen Davidson was not able to attend today, but he will be joining the board as County Commissioner Parks' appointee.
- Guests Bob Hamilton, representing the VA, and John Simpson, from the City Law Department, were introduced.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

- a. Item VIII, Old Business reads, "...Many times dogs have charged Sanford." Sanford Alexander asked to modify the meeting minutes to state that, "Sanford and his dogs have been charged by other dogs," and clarify that it is Sanford's dog that is being attacked.
- b. In the "Public Comments" section it reads, "Dave said the Robert Layton..." The word "the" should be changed to "that."
- c. Item IX should revise the next meeting time to "10:00 – 11:30am."
- d. Minutes were approved as corrected above.

**III. Agenda Building – No discussion**

**IV. Consent Agenda:** Receive and file reports from committees.

- APS Committee Report

- a. Sanford presented an update from the APS (Audible Pedestrian Signal) Committee. Brian Coon has been working on the Main St. and Central intersection, and overcoming some obstacles that were encountered. The intersection at Broadway and Pawnee is going to be painted and additional signs added to alert drivers about pedestrians who are blind in the area. The mid-block crosswalk between the courthouses on Main Street has been adjusted five time, including wire re-pulled to correct the problem. Sanford pointed out that the piece of equipment at this location was not the equipment that the committee had recommended. It was added that Brian Coon has been a fantastic asset to the APS committee, and he has been working hard to get the issues resolved. His efforts are much appreciated. Brian Coon reported that the new intersections will be the Polera equipment.

**V. Old Business:**

- a. Pit Bulls as Service Animals:
  - 1. David asked the board if the board wished to make a recommendation to the City Council regarding pit bulls as service animals. Does the board wish to study it, consider it, or decline?

It was questioned if service animals that are pit bulls should be muzzled.

2. Steve Hinds stated that he prefers that pit bulls should not be service animals, since many service animal training agencies won't train them.
3. Sanford Alexander stated that he agreed with Steve, but that he feels that problems associated with the solution might be worse than the cure. One concern is whether individuals/merchants can recognize pit bulls. The ADA allows merchants to refuse a dog that is out of control.
4. It was discussed that if pit bulls were banned as service animals, the City may be sued and a complaint filed with the Department of Justice.
5. It was discussed that muzzling of pit bull service animals may create more problems for everyone else who has a service animal.
6. David suggested that it seems that it may make sense to remove this item from the board's agenda at this time.
7. De Eaton stated that perhaps merchants aren't aware of the right to refuse an out of control service animal. She suggested creating a public message about this, possibly for the newspaper. David worries that this might be then interpreted too liberally and cause more problems. It was agreed that this issue seems to be a "catch 22."
8. Steve Hinds discussed this issue with the Department of Justice. The DOJ will not say that a pit bull can't be a service animal. However, when investigating a complaint, the DOJ does ask people with disabilities to demonstrate the tasks that their service animal can perform. New DOJ regulations, that have not yet been adopted, would allow municipalities to regulate breeds.
9. Deb Umberger questioned whether the city can require papers/documentation for service animals. Steve Hinds clarified that the DOJ regulations do not allow you to require certification or papers to prove an animal is a service animal. Sanford stated that you can ask what tasks the animal has been trained to perform.
10. It was discussed that once the new DOJ regulations are adopted, they will provide more detail related to emotional support animals, airports, and miniature horses as service animals.

## **VI. New Business:**

- a. Elections:

1. De Eaton nominated David Calvert to be re-elected as Chair. Craig Perbeck seconds the motion. The motion is approved and David Calvert is re-elected as Chair of the board. David appoints Lindsey Mahoney as Vice Chair. David stated that he would like Lindsey to assist him with committees. He invited new members to join one of the current committees.
- b. Discuss Visit-ability Ordinance:
  1. David stated that he has been having some discussions with the area Home Builders' Association regarding visit-ability. This would mean that new homes would have at least one entrance with no steps, 36" wide halls on the accessible level, and at least one accessible restroom.
  2. Atlanta has adopted this ordinance. Craig Perbeck questioned how the builders have gotten around it in Atlanta, and David stated that to his knowledge, they haven't. Steve Hinds recommended "Concrete Change in Atlanta," which shows how the community has embraced it.
  3. David hasn't detected opposition from the builder's group. He did learn about a "CAPS" (Certified Aging in Place Specialist) certification program that builders can obtain. A flyer about an Aging in Place conference on June 23<sup>rd</sup> was distributed to the WSCAAB.
- c. Update Operating Policies:
  1. The operating policies need amended to comply with the City of Wichita settlement agreement. Operating policies were amended to add CPRF as a member of the board and to include the mission statement. Sanford moved to adopt the revised operating policies. Steve Hinds seconds the motion. The motion is approved.

## **VII. Updates**

- a. City of Wichita Updates:
  1. Handouts were distributed related to court statistics and tickets paid for accessible parking violations.
  2. Jeanne described a meeting at the Wichita Art Museum called by Charles Steiner. A "Cultural Access Workshop" training for docents at the museum was presented by Emporia State University called "Creating Arts for All." There were numerous examples presented to provide better training for docents.
  3. Jeanne describes a meeting with the American Association of People with Disabilities and a Disability Mentoring Day program

she attended in Emporia. Wichita is planning a similar day for students in October. The program is looking for mentors who can dedicate 2 hours on this day. Wichita's program is being called "Career Choices," and students with disabilities have been invited to participate.

4. Jeanne has also been working with various departments to check if anything accessibility-related has been overlooked. An "Accessible Information Exchange" booklet is being developed related to accessible meeting locations and other helpful information. She will meet with her team in a few weeks to go over that information.
  5. Jeanne also reported that she is developing an facility/onsite checklist with Jay and Charles.
- b. Library: David mentioned that Lori Lawrence has asked for an update about fire alarm strobes at the downtown library. It was reported that plans for the existing library are on hold due to the new library that is planned. It is expected that design will be complete by next year, with the new library estimated to open in 2011. Charles said that he would check on a more accurate time frame and report back. David requested an early-on presentation by the library architects. Jay stated that a "utilization study" is being prepared on best practices. He suggested that the WSCAAB meet with this group.
  - c. Closed Captioning: Jeanne reported that the City has narrowed the selection to three vendors for closed captioning services for council meetings. A decision is expected this week. She will update on exact dates, but she expects closed captioning to be in place soon.
  - d. Parking: Jay reported that he is working on a second draft of an ordinance for licensing of parking lot stripers. A PowerPoint for the City Council is being prepared. A workshop is planned, and the drafted policy has an effective date of September 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - e. Jay and Jeanne also reported that they have been participating in the selection process to update the transit system. This will announce stops as the bus approaches, and it will be GPS controlled (which means it is better controlled than recordings or driver announced systems). Extra funding is being used to ensure that this system is in place in time for the opening of the new arena.
  - f. Charles also reported that the City will bid \$400,000 – 500,000 in 2009/2010 ADA work over the next few weeks. ADA CIP funds have been distributed to street maintenance workers, and 90 degree curb cuts

are being installed wherever possible. ADA improvements are being achieved through city-budgeted money as well as CIP funds.

- g. Video Phones at City Hall: Jeanne reported that this issue is not being pursued at this time. Two TTY/TDD's are located in City Hall. One is at the information desk, and there is a person available to help. It was asked if signs are posted to announce the availability of this service. Jeanne will check on this.
- h. Riverfest / Public Education: It was suggested that an ADA checklist would be helpful for this event. It was reported that there were children's rides that were inaccessible, sidewalks blocked, and some problems with temporary ramps. Jeanne has met with this group in the past. Craig described problems he experienced with ramps buckling or "teeter-tottering." Additionally, conduits blocked some accessible routes, and 10 to 12 ADA spaces were blocked west of Century II. It was discussed that many of these problems result from lack of knowledge about the ADA or lack of public education. It was suggested that each committee might be able to develop a public education campaign for an issue related to their committee. Steve Hinds said that the ILRC could be at a meeting of Riverfest volunteers to help with this. Susan Robinson described that another problem is getting people with disabilities to the festival. It was stated that, "People don't know what they don't know," and agreed that public education would be helpful. David explained that this is not unique to Riverfest and described the parking lot by his building that was resealed and restriped, but the accessible parking spaces were still put back in their original/incorrect design.
- i. David Calvert said that there are two priorities he would like the WSCAAB to focus on over the next year:
  - 1. Work on education.
  - 2. Public Transportation. It is hoped that a "real dent" can be made on this issue.
- j. Susan Robinson reported that the website [www.paratransitrides.com](http://www.paratransitrides.com) is in development, but it is still in its infancy. She hopes this will help with public transportation education.
- k. Brian Coon reported that he has revised the design standards for curb cuts on the city's CAD files that are sent to consultants. The diagonal curb cut is no longer shown, and designers would have to ask for it if they have a unique condition that can't be solved with 90 degree curb cuts.
- l. David reported that Tiffany Nickel recently took a group of students to the new Boundless Playground at Sedgwick County Park.

m. Lindsey reported that due to some issues with gas lines, the parking design for the new lot serving the Boundless Playground had to be relocated to the east. However, the ADA parking is still on the closest route to the park and the spaces will still be universal spaces. There will actually be two more ADA spaces created as a result of this change.

**VIII. Public Comment:** No additional comment.

**IX. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 11:28am.

**The next meeting will be:**  
**Wednesday, July 22, 2009**  
**10:00-11:30 a.m. at ILRC**

Meeting minutes prepared by:  
Lindsey Mahoney, Sedgwick County ADA Coordinator