

Wichita – Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board

September 23, 2009 - Meeting Minutes Independent Living Resource Center – 3033 West 2nd St. North

A. Welcome and Introductions: David Calvert, Chair

1. Guest George Harris (with Starkey) was introduced to the group. George has been appointed as a member of the Transportation Committee. As a member of the Transportation Committee, George will also represent the WSCAAB on the City's Transportation Advisory Board.
2. Meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

Attendance for the WSCAAB:

Present:

David Calvert	Glen Davidson
De Eaton	Bob Hamilton
Julie Hedrick	Ed Koon
Grady Landrum	Craig Perbeck
Susan Robinson	Steve Stambaugh
John Sullivan	Deb Umberger
Dr. David Waldie	

Absent:

Sanford Alexander	Jennifer Foster-Farquhar
Jason Gegen	Steve Hinds
Lori Lawrence	Sandy Martz
Tiffany Nickel	Valerhy Powers
Marty Rothwell	Nick Taylor

City/County Staff Present:

Lindsey Mahoney	Sedgwick County ADA Coordinator
Jeanne Goodvin	City ADA Coordinator & Development Director for Wichita Art Museum
Jay Hinkel	Deputy City Attorney
Charles Karugu	ADA Associate Engineer, City of Wichita
Brian Coon	City of Wichita Traffic Engineer

Guests:

George Harris, Starkey, Inc.

- Jeanne announced that she has accepted a position as the new Development Director for the Wichita Art Museum (new phone #268-4934). She will continue as the City's ADA Coordinator in title and work approx. ½ to 1 day per week to help transition files to Charles and Jay through the end of the year. The board thanked Jeanne for her work as City's ADA Coordinator!

II. Approval of Minutes: From July 22, 2009 board meeting.

- A. De moved and Susan seconded the motion to adopt the meeting minutes. Motion passed and minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Agenda Building : None

IV. Consent Agenda: None

V. Old Business:

A. APS Update:

1. Brian Coon provided an update on the audible pedestrian signals (APS) at the arena area (Emporia). Polera APS signals will be used to match the others (Harry and Oliver, Lincoln & Oliver, Central & Main) that the City has been installing. The signal at Central and Main is now functioning properly. Sanford and Brian also spent time at the signals at Central & Oliver and Central & Main intersections making sure that they are installed correctly.
2. Lindsey provided an update from Sanford Alexander who was not able to attend due to his wife's illness.
 1. Next APS meeting will be 10/29 at 1:00 at Envision. Anyone interested is invited to attend.
 2. Trip to Kansas City to look at APS signal installations has been postponed until mid to late October, but it will still take place.
 3. Sanford advised that Brian Coon would be providing an update on the City's installation of APS signals in the Arena area.

B. Transportation Update: From Susan Robinson

1. The Paratransit Council received a "jumpstart" grant for \$1000. They used some of this money to create their first brochure, which will be distributed at Senior Expo. Nine other agencies also received grants, and four of those are also addressing

transportation. She wonders if it might be possible for all five groups to work together on their transportation efforts.

2. Susan also updated on the State of Kansas's selection of MTM (Medical Transportation Management) to serve as transportation brokerage for the state. She said that MTM had announced cuts in reimbursement costs for rides (reduced from \$12.50/ambulatory ride to \$8 and from \$30/wheelchair ride to \$22). Her cost for a wheelchair ride is \$34.50. After some discussion with MTM, they did agree to raise the rates. However, they also announced new changes for liquidated damages, age of vehicles, uniforms, etc. that would go into effect November 1. There was concern because no public education has occurred on these changes. There will be changes for both providers and riders to understand.
3. Susan is also working on a draft of two surveys. One is for providers and the other is for riders. This will assist in developing the comprehensive transportation plan with City of Wichita.

C. Deb Umberger presented an update from the Transportation Committee:

1. Valerhy Powers had compiled a long list of things people need in transportation (based upon the ILRC petition). Deb had suggested that the committee focus on one item so that they can look for a "success" in at least one area. After success on this one item, they will revisit the list to tackle the next item. The suggested idea is to extend bus service to run until 9pm Monday thru Friday. This would offer more people the opportunity to work. A commitment of 3 -4 years is proposed, not just 90 days.
2. Jay Hinkel suggested that if the issue/item isn't important, one suggestion may be to focus on expanding transportation at night to the arena area. The City and County are on-board for increasing downtown service at night. Jay explained that the City is not opposed to offering transportation at night, but that it may be difficult in these economic times.
3. Deb stated that lots of programs and services don't make revenue, but they are provided as a service/benefit to the community (ex. – Libraries). Improved transportation services may also benefit businesses in attracting workers that can't afford private transportation, such as many people with disabilities.
4. Much discussion occurred related to the need for public education, ridership/carpooling awareness, air attainment awareness, and the fact that most people drive because it is easy and relatively cheap.

Unless one of those factors change, many people will continue to drive.

5. Jay suggested that WSCAAB members attend the open house meeting on September 29th to provide feedback on transportation and other downtown issues.
6. Deb stated that many people with disabilities may not rally behind for push for nighttime transportation to the arena area because they have other priorities that are more important.
7. Charles Karugu suggested researching how transportation issues are addressed in the Kansas City area.
8. The board did not come to a resolution of this issue, but agreed that it would be good for WSCAAB members to voice their feedback at the open house event at Century II from 4 – 7pm on September 29th.
9. George Harris offered some history on local transportation issues, and he said that Ed Flentje was someone who really listened. He suggested finding friends in City Hall to help with the issues. He stated that transportation issues have typically been long, hard battles.
10. It was also discussed that one problem is that transportation is an issue with many stakeholders with different agendas. It is also difficult to compare costs between different groups offering transportation services.
11. David stated he was interested in learning more about the arena transportation issues that Jay had mentioned. He and Jay will visit on this issue and perhaps look for ways to work together. Perhaps there is “an easy victory” that may allow us to get our foot in the door. If Jay has any more information on this issue, an email will be sent out to the board.

D. Downtown and Arena Parking: Lindsey, Jay, and Steve attended the downtown parking workshop. Jay updated that after the accessible parking information was presented at the joint City/County workshop he and others met with the parking consultant team to inform them of the plans that have been made to address accessible parking. Jay explained that Lot D serving the arena will be permanently marked with ADA spaces to serve larger events where the on-site arena accessible parking may be insufficient. The parking consultants had identified two other lots for accessible parking, but there were concerns about crossing Emporia. Lot D seemed to offer a safer travel route. Steve Stambaugh had some

concerns that the cab/drop off lane is located on Emporia and not in front of the Arena. He plans to make a comment about this at the open house event and suggest a designated area for cabs/busses. It is important that there is a clear location that taxi and transportation companies feel comfortable coming to. Jay explained that the drop off lane on Emporia is actually at the western boundary of the arena site, and may actually be closer than some drop off points on Waterman.

VI. New Business:

A. Arena: Lindsey Mahoney reported that she is starting final ADA “punch list” inspections of the Arena construction for ADA compliance. She asked if a few WSCAAB members would like to also participate in this process. Lindsey said that having more sets of eyes review for accessibility would be welcome. David suggested that it would be good to have all members visit, as each member may bring a unique perspective. He suggested holding the November WSCAAB meeting at the Arena if possible. Lindsey will check. An event is being planned where WSCAAB members will be invited to visit the arena, but Lindsey will need to check on the dates for this event, which will have to fall after substantial completion is issued. At this time it was also decided to move the November meeting to November 18th due to the holiday.

B. Construction Tolerances Committee: David reported that he has created a construction tolerances committee composed of himself, Jeff Farney (a local ADA professional), Lindsey, Jay, Charles, City OCI representatives, County Code representatives, and local contractors. ADAAG states that all dimensions in ADAAG may allow for allowable construction tolerances for field conditions. For example, a water closet must be centered at 18” from the wall, but to date OCI has allowed a 1” tolerance either way. This accounts for that fact that tile or other finish materials can affect the dimensions. This group held its first meeting and will eventually submit a report of recommended tolerances to the board. This is expected for the January meeting.

VII. Updates

A. City/County Videophone Update:

a. Lindsey Mahoney presented an update on a phone conference meeting held with Sorenson videophones, County telephone/internet/firewall technology representatives, Lindsey Mahoney, and Charles Karugu. Both

the City and County are considering installation of videophones in some public high-traffic locations. Lindsey explained that Sorenson was able to answer nearly all of the questions that IT staff presented, and it looks promising that the videophone system will be able to work with existing IT systems. Currently, we are waiting on the Sorenson representative to answer two more questions related to technical information. Once this is determined, IT staff will be able to make their recommendation and may begin plans for installation of a videophone as a pilot program.

B. Disability Mentoring Day Update:

- a. Jeanne Goodvin presented an update on Disability Mentoring Day, a workplace shadowing event for students and job seekers with disabilities. David Calvert, Envision, Sedgwick County departments, and City of Wichita departments are all participating as mentors. DMD began in 1999 and is part of a nation-wide program. Students will shadow for part of the day in a career field of the student's choice. Student participants will receive a "Careers for Tomorrow" backpack with resources and other materials. The event will be October 21st. Next year, it is hoped to have an even larger event, with more student and employer participants. It is hoped that this will be a great event (the first of its kind in Wichita), and news will be shared at the next meeting.

C. City ADA Update:

- a. Accessible parking program information was distributed relating to tickets paid back to 2006, complaints filed, complaints paid, cases set, trials held, cases disposed, cases found guilty/not guilty, dismissed, bench warrants issued, etc. Steve requested that this document also be sent via email so that it is accessible to all.
- b. Jeanne applauded Charles, Brian, and Jay for their work with the APS committee. A lot of work has been happening behind the scenes.
- c. Charles will bring a small slideshow of ADA projects for the next meeting. By January, the City will start bidding 2010 ADA transition plan items.

D. County ADA Update: Lindsey Mahoney

- a. **Main Courthouse Restrooms:** Lindsey announced that the County is working on renovations to all of the restrooms in the Main Courthouse (currently in design). The transition plan called for the restroom improvements over a 10 year period, but the County will do all public restrooms (those at the lobbies of floors 2 thru 11) as part of a 2009

- project. The first floor was not included, as it already had restroom renovations. This project will ensure accessible restrooms on every floor.
- b. **Courtroom Renovations:** The County is currently working on design for renovations of 19 courtrooms. All gallery areas will be renovated for accessibility of the gallery. Two of these courtrooms (5-5 and 6-1) will be made fully accessible in all areas, including the witness stand, jury box, jury deliberation room, and jury restrooms.
 - c. **New Courtrooms:** Two new 4th floor courtrooms are also in design. These courtrooms will be fully ADA accessible, including access to the judge's bench and judge's restroom.
 - d. **Sedgwick County Park:** A number of improvements are underway at Sedgwick County Park. One of the projects in design is an ADA accessible fishing dock. This will have an accessible parking space, accessible route, and accessible dock. This project will be a prototype for other accessible fishing dock locations at this park and Lake Afton Park.
 - e. **Kansas African American Museum Update:** Lindsey explained that a design is underway for accessibility improvements at KAAM. This is one of the most challenging projects because it is a historic building that used to be a church. It has a sloping floor, grand staircase, no elevator, etc. The County has asked the Architect to give two solutions for accessibility improvements, which depend on the future of the facility: one is if the building ever becomes a County office-type building vs. a second option if it continues operating in its current function as a museum with access to three floors. The second option would involve adding an elevator to connect three stories, an accessible route due to the grand staircase, and work with the historic preservation committee. The museum actually operates as a separate entity than the County, but it is located in a County-owned facility. Some questioned whether it makes sense to renovate when the museum may relocate to the river, or due to the high cost/difficulty of such a project in a historic building. Lindsey explained that no decisions have been made, but that this design process will help in analyzing what plans will make the most sense for the future of this facility. It is anticipated that the County will continue to own this facility even if the museum should ever relocate. Once schematic plans are available, Lindsey will update the board. These plans will be evaluated in terms of accessibility, historic preservation issues, usability issues, etc.

VIII. Public Comment: None.

IX. Adjourn: 11:29am

The next meeting will be:

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Location to be determined. Email will be sent.

Meeting minutes prepared by:

Lindsey Mahoney, Sedgwick County ADA Coordinator