

Wichita – Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board

January 27, 2010 - Meeting Minutes Independent Living Resource Center – 3033 West 2nd St. North

A. Welcome and Introductions: David Calvert, Chair

1. Meeting began at 10:00 a.m.
2. Lindsey Mahoney and David Calvert reported on members who had contacted them because they were unable to attend due to illness, doctor's appointments, conflicts with other meetings, etc.

Attendance for the WSCAAB:

Present:

David Calvert	Steve Hinds
Ed Koon	Grady Landrum
Lori Lawrence	Sandy Martz
Craig Perbeck	Marty Rothwell
Steve Stambaugh	John Sullivan
Deb Umberger	Dr. David Waldie

Absent:

Sanford Alexander	Glen Davidson
De Eaton	Jennifer Foster-Farquhar
Jason Gegen	Bob Hamilton
Julie Hedrick	Tiffany Nickel
Valerhy Powers	Susan Robinson
Nick Taylor	

City/County Staff Present:

Lindsey Mahoney	Sedgwick County ADA Coordinator
Brian Coon	City of Wichita ADA Coordinator

Guests:

Jessica Crocker, Envision

II. Meeting Minutes:

- ### A. Meeting minutes from the November 18, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

III. Agenda Building : None

IV. Consent Agenda/Committee Updates: No committee reports.

A. Lindsey Mahoney reported that Sanford Alexander had announced the date of the next APS Committee Meeting – February 25th.

V. Old Business:

A. Arena Update – Members reported on their experience at the first Intrust Bank Arena events:

1. Grady Landrum reported to the board that Nick Taylor had attended the Brad Paisley concert. Nick shared with Grady that parking had worked better than he had anticipated. He arrived very late, and expected the accessible parking spaces to be full. He found 6 accessible spaces open in Lot D, and reported to Grady that he was able to make it to the show without any trouble.
2. David Calvert reported that the newspaper had indicated that there were five empty accessible parking spaces in Lot D at the concert.
3. Steve Stambaugh commented that the Elton John concert may be the test due to the diverse audience. It was discussed that it was interesting that people have been arriving early to get spaces that meet their needs. This may be helping to avoid bottlenecking and other traffic issues.
4. Grady Landrum also had another friend who attended Brad Paisley. This individual was able to find a space meeting his needs by parking on an end space; he didn't use the accessible parking.
5. David Calvert stated that there are enough accessible parking spaces to comply with ADAAG requirements. However, he stated that Title II of the ADA requires "program access," which may exceed ADAAG.
6. Marty Rothwell reported that he took 70 people (including many individuals with disabilities) to the Globetrotters event. He estimated attendance for the Globetrotters at approximately 12,000 people. He said his group arrived 10 minutes before the game. He stated that the parking and drop off areas at Intrust Bank Arena are

“200% better than the Sprint Center in Kansas City.” He explained that it was unbelievable that his group could unload right at the front door, and find accessible parking within 2 blocks of the Arena. He reported that he parked in a lot behind the transit center, and there were 18 accessible parking spaces available 10 minutes before the event (none were used when they arrived). They were asked to show ID to use the accessible parking. He also reported that the bus lane “worked great.” Overall, he reported that everything “worked perfect.”

7. John Sullivan said he had heard about 25,000 people attended the grand opening, and no problems were reported. Grady Landrum clarified that people were parking anywhere during this event, and it was “nasty.”
8. Craig Perbeck said that he arrived for the opening reception and didn’t see a curb cut by the north entry. Lindsey explained that there is a blended transition at the “plaza” area, and all of the access aisles go right to the plaza without the need for ramps (they are all at the plaza level). Craig didn’t notice this. Lindsey will visit to look into this issue further.

VI. New Business:

A. Discuss New Arena Ticket Purchase Policies:

1. David Calvert explained that he has been working closely with Jim Sachs (SMG/Select-A-Seat) regarding accessible ticketing and seating issues.
 - i. He explained that the original policy was to only allow one companion seat per wheelchair seat that is purchased. This was done to ensure that people needing the accessible seats were able to purchase them. However, after a few events, it became clear that wheelchair seats were not selling out (ex. – there were still hundreds of seats available in the accessible seating areas after concerts had been announced “sold out”). Due to this, the policy was revised to allow individuals to purchase three companion seats.
 - ii. Policy allows people who use walkers or have other disabilities (trouble walking, going up steps, etc.) to also use the accessible seating areas.

- iii. There are also seats where one arm folds up (designated aisle seats). These allow people who can transfer from a wheelchair to do so. They can also be requested by people who use walkers, etc.
 - iv. David Calvert said that he would like the board to consider at what point SMG/Select-A-Seat may release the “balance” of remaining un-sold accessible and companion seats. The initial policy was 24 hours before the event; however, for some events SMG has to pay for any unsold tickets. 24-hours doesn’t give much time to try and sell hundreds of tickets, especially when the show has been announced as “sold-out.”
 - v. David explained that for the Brad Paisley concert, Select-A-Seat called those who had bought accessible seats and requested additional companion seats. They did this before releasing the unsold accessible/companion seats so that those individuals could purchase the additional companion seats they desired.
 - vi. David stated that he believes SMG has been working hard at making accessibility a priority, and he was pleased in how SMG has worked with the WSCAAB to address issues related to purchasing accessible seats and companion seats.
 - vii. Steve Stambaugh made a motion to release the balance of accessible and companion seating one-week before an event for a sold-out show. Marty Rothwell seconded the motion. The motion passes.
2. Craig Perbeck questioned if someone can exchange a ticket if they buy a standard ticket (non-accessible) and later find out they require an accessible seat. Example – If someone wins tickets on the radio, but they require accessible seats. Lindsey Mahoney will check with Select-A-Seat on this.
 - i. *Note: After the meeting, Lindsey confirmed with Jim Sachs that Select-A-Seat will certainly exchange the tickets to accessible seats as long as accessible seats are available. Individuals can bring the tickets to Intrust Bank Arena’s Box Office to make this exchange.*
 3. Grady Landrum reported that Nick Taylor had purchased a floor seat (wheelchair seat/space) for the Brad Paisley concert. Some of the stage configuration had changed from what was expected when Nick purchased his ticket. He was pleased that SMG staff assisted

him in moving to a location with a better view of the stage. He didn't ask to be relocated, and it was commented that it was good to see that Arena staff was paying attention to accessibility issues.

4. It was discussed that it appears SMG and Select-A-Seat are paying close attention to accessibility issues. Lindsey Mahoney reported that Arena staff has been in contact with her recently to select locations for IED devices (defibrillators) to ensure they are not protruding object hazards to people with visual disabilities. They have also been in touch for feedback regarding tables (with no chairs) that are to be installed in the concourse areas. Lindsey Mahoney was able to put them in touch with Steve Stambaugh at Envision to get guidance on ensuring the tables are not protruding objects. Board members commented that this is a big change from the initial design review meeting with the architects from Kansas City.
5. It was questioned if anyone has seen a videophone installed at the Arena. Lindsey Mahoney reported that she knew Arena staff had been in touch with Sorenson about installing a videophone at the information desk. She will check on the status of this.
 - i. *Note: After the meeting, Lindsey confirmed the following with Larry Pecenka: Larry has visited with Kristy Mnich (Sorenson) about obtaining a video phone for the Arena. Kristy was very appreciative that the Arena was sensitive to the deaf community and inquiring about the videophone. She stated that a videophone is not a requirement per ADA. She explained that the most common tool for people who are deaf is communicating by text messaging. Her big concern was how many people would actually use the videophone in an area, as she has to look at the return on investment (ROI). She also expressed concern of someone stealing the unit. Sorenson indicated that they were not big on installing the unit at this time. Perhaps this can be discussed at the next WSCAAB meeting, and further conversations can take place with Sorenson.*

VII. Updates:
A. City ADA Update

1. Citations for Accessible Parking Violations on Private Property:

- i.** Brian Coon reported on an incident where 911 staff was not informed that police can issue a parking ticket for accessible parking violations on private property.
- ii.** A vehicle was illegally parked in an accessible space at Pawnee and Broadway. The 911 Call Taker told the caller police cannot issue tickets on private property. The caller was transferred to Patrol South and told the same thing.
- iii.** Brian has worked with Diane Gage at 911 and the Lieutenant at Patrol South. All are informed now that police can ticket on private property.
- iv.** It was questioned whether it is appropriate to call 911 for an accessible parking violation. Brian stated that yes, this is the proper procedure. He requests that people inform him if they are told that police cannot enforce accessible parking violations on private property.

2. Visual Fire Alarms at the Downtown Library:

- i.** Lori Lawrence questioned if Brian has looked into her concern that the restrooms at the downtown library do not have visual fire alarms. There is concern that a visitor who is deaf could be in the restroom during a fire, and they would not be alerted to the alarm. Brian stated that this issue is on his agenda for this week.

B. County ADA Update

- 1.** Lindsey Mahoney reported that the County is beginning to work on the 2010 ADA projects that have been funded through the County's CIP.
 - i.** 2010 projects will include a number of smaller projects, as well as some larger efforts such as developing an accessibility plan for Lake Afton Park.
 - ii.** The Lake Afton Park accessibility planning project will include plans for making the recreation experience fully accessible to people with disabilities. It will include plans for accessible camping sites, picnic shelters, fishing dock, storm shelters, play area, etc.

- iii. An accessible fishing dock for Sedgwick County Park is also in the construction document phase (architect completing the documents).
2. Lindsey reported that a County team is meeting today to review proposals (bids) from contractors for accessibility renovations to 19 courtrooms. The public areas of all 19 courtrooms will be made fully accessible. Two courtrooms (5-5 and 6-1) will be made fully accessible throughout, including ADA improvements to the witness stands, jury box, jury deliberation rooms, and jury restrooms.
3. Lindsey also reported that she has been working with Sorenson Communications to have a videophone installed for citizens who are deaf at the Main County Courthouse. Sorenson required a letter requesting this device from a person who is deaf. Lori Lawrence assisted Lindsey in obtaining a letter from the President of Wichita Association of the Deaf. She is now working with Sorenson and County staff to arrange for the installation. Sorenson will provide training on how to use the device. Lindsey will provide information to the City of Wichita on this training date/time so that they can also have staff attend, as they are also considering installing a videophone.
4. Dr. Waldie questioned if there had been any further discussion from the parent(s) who had requested a closed gate at the Boundless Playground at Sedgwick County Park. Lindsey Mahoney stated that she was not aware of any further comments on this issue (parents wanting a gate so that their children with disabilities would not run out/away while parents not watching). Board members reported that they recalled that it had been determined that parents bear responsibility for monitoring their children, and that there was no way to ensure a gate remains closed in a public location (heavy-traffic) such as this. Lindsey will check if there has been any further comment on this issue. Members also reported that the Boundless Playground is a highly used feature at the park.
 - i. *Note: After the meeting, Lindsey confirmed that the above discussion is accurate. Parents are responsible for watching their children at all times, and while parents can close the*

gates, there is no way to ensure that another parent/child does not open the gate. Therefore, it is recommended that parents watch their children closely, as they would in other public settings.

C. Other Updates

1. Visitability Ordinance:

- i. David Calvert reported that he is continuing to work on the visitability ordinance. He understands that the only way to get this issue passed is to get the WABA (Wichita Area Builder's Association) on board. He continues to work with this group.

2. Construction Tolerances Committee:

- i. David Calvert reported that the Construction Tolerances Committee of the WSCAAB has stopped its development of recommendations for allowable construction tolerances for field conditions. It was understood that the U.S. Access Board has an upcoming report to be issued regarding construction tolerances. As a result, the group has decided to wait for this report and guidance from Access Board.
- ii. At this point, the best information available is a 12/2008 report by David Ballast that suggests putting much responsibility on Architects. This report suggests designing to allow for expected tolerances, for example designing ramps to be constructed at 1:13 instead of 1:12.
- iii. Lindsey Mahoney and David will be doing a presentation to the Wichita - American Institute of Architects group in June.

3. Upcoming Events:

- i. Lindsey Mahoney provided flyers for two upcoming events related to accessible design and construction.
 - a. ADA 2004 Rewrite Seminar on February 23rd at WSU.
 - b. "Improving Access to Recreation" Seminar on February 24th at Emporia State University.

4. Passenger Rail:

- i. Deb Umberger asked if the WSCAAB would be interested in looking at passenger rail as an accessible transportation focus. Currently the focus has been on intracity transportation, but

Deborah Fisher-Stout is passionate about passenger rail. Deb explained about a woman who has to have someone drive her to Kansas City, but passenger rail could allow her to travel independently.

- ii. David suggested that Deb email him information on this issue. He will distribute it to the board to determine if this is something the board wishes to pursue.

VIII. Public Comment: None.

IX. Adjourn: 11:15am

The next meeting will be:

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Independent Living Resource Center

Meeting minutes prepared by:

Lindsey Mahoney, Sedgwick County ADA Coordinator