

Wichita-Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board  
May 25, 2011  
Meeting Minutes  
Envision, 610 N. Main

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**Present Voting Members**

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Sanford Alexander	Steve Hinds	Susan Robinson
David Calvert	Ed Koon	John Sullivan
Brian A. Coon	Lori Lawrence	David Waldie
Rick Eberhard	Lindsey Mahoney	Shawn Walters
Julie Hedrick	David Moffett	

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**Absent**

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Glen Davidson	Grady Landrum	Valerhy Powers
De Eaton	Sandy Martz	Marty Rothwell
Jason Gegen	Tiffany Nickel	Nick Taylor
Bob Hamilton	Craig Perbeck	

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**City / County Staff**

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Migwi Karugu	Shirley Wilson – Wichita Transit
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**Guests**

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A.J. Boleski – INTRUST Bank Arena  
Lt. Doug Nolte – Wichita Police Dept. (arriving at 10:45am)  
Barbara Alexander

- I. Welcome and Introductions:** David Calvert, Chair
  - 1. David Gear also welcomed the board to Envision. The board thanked Envision for hosting.
- II. Meeting Minutes:** Meeting Minutes – see IV below
- III. Agenda Building:** No additions to the agenda
- IV. Meeting Minutes and Consent Agenda to Receive and File Reports / Committee Updates**
  - A. APS Committee Report received and distributed
  - B. Lori made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and APS report that had been submitted. Susan seconded the motion. Motion passes.

**II. Old Business**

- A. INTRUST Bank Arena Update – A.J. Boleski
  - i. A.J. provided an update on ADA issues at the Arena. The revised ADA parking plan was implemented at the start of the Thunder season in October. Since that time, it seems to have reduced problems. They do charge \$4 per vehicle for accessible parking, but this is a reduced rate from the fee that others pay. As a result of the changes, they can offer more ADA parking on-site. There are about 245 spaces on site. Through the changes, they created 13 new temporary ADA spaces. A.J. reported that at the WSU game at the Arena, they were able to accommodate 60 – 70 ADA vehicles on site. They do make changes for events where the need for more accessible parking is expected. For example, at the Shrine Circus, they opened up 150 additional spaces for disability parking.
  - ii. A.J. reported that his staff has also been working on changes to ticketing procedures to ensure compliance with the new ADA regulations. Lindsey Mahoney has provided information on several trainings related to ticketing, and Jim Sachs attended several. They have purchased new ticketing software that will be installed by June to allow online purchasing of ADA seats. They had previously been allowing use of the wheelchair spaces to individuals with other mobility impairments that did not require use of a wheelchair, and this practice will continue.
  - iii. A.J. encouraged the board to continue to communicate any feedback on accessibility at the arena.
  - iv. The board expressed appreciation of the efforts of A.J. and his staff, with special thanks to A.J.
- B. Transportation Summit: June 22, 2011 from 8am to 12pm at ILRC
  - i. Registration will be from 8am – 8:30am
  - ii. To be held at the ILRC, 3033 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

- iii. A professional facilitator will be provided (we think) to help lead the meeting.
- iv. Shawn and David C. encouraged everyone to attend, as this is not set up to be an event for consumer complaints. It is set up to be a problem solving and prioritization meeting. Attendees will include the WSCAAB, and the Paratransit Council, including Coordinated Transit District 12 (3 county area).
- v. WTA had requested that a 3-county area be considered. There was some discussion in the planning committee about expanding further regionally, but it was thought that might be “biting off more than we can chew.”
- vi. Look in the newspaper for more discussion of the difficult decisions facing Wichita Transit (WTA). Shirley reported a \$700,000 increase in gas cost.
- vii. It was emphasized that the summit will not be a “complaint session;” that has been done many times in the past. The meeting is intended to understand the issues, and prioritize, so that the consultants can help make recommendations.
- viii. David M. questioned if Sedgwick County Transportation will participate? Yes – Valerhy Powers will represent Department on Aging.
- ix. Attendance at the meeting is highly encouraged of all WSCAAB members, as this issue is very important.

### **III. New Business**

#### **A. ADA Courtroom Improvements at Main Courthouse – update and planning/monitoring discussion**

- i. Lindsey reported on ADA improvements that have been made throughout the main courthouse downtown. The following ADA improvements have already been made to courtrooms:
  - Two ADA courtrooms, including accessible judge’s benches, on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. (2010)
  - Public gallery areas made accessible in all 19 courtrooms. (2010)
  - Courtroom 5-5 renovated to include accessible witness stand, jury box, jury deliberation areas, and jury restrooms. (2010)
  - Courtroom 6-1 renovated to include accessible witness stand, jury box, jury deliberation areas, and jury restrooms. (2010)
  - Accessible fire alarm system with visual alarms installed in all juror areas and restrooms in the two 4<sup>th</sup> floor courtrooms (2010), 5-5, and 6-1 (2011). Accessible fire alarm systems with visual alarms already exist in all public galleries / main courtroom areas.
- ii. The transition plan included language stating, *“It should be understood that, according to the program access provisions of Title II – pertaining to existing buildings, each and every Courtroom may not need to be made fully accessible, so long as Courtroom services, as a whole, are accessible and usable by patrons with disabilities. Therefore, (each and every courtroom) may not need to be made fully accessible so long as another fully accessible Courtroom is made available when necessary.”*

- iii. Based on the recent improvements, Lindsey shared feedback from her discussions with the District Court. The District Court has indicated that they feel that “program access” is being provided, as they can assign jurors/attorneys/witnesses/etc. who require accessibility features in the courtroom to one of the accessible courtrooms. The District Court has a notice on its website of its intent to provide accommodations upon request. They have agreed to continue to monitor the current policies/practices of assigning individuals to accessible courtrooms so that it can be decide what additional courtroom improvements, if any, may be necessary in the future. Lindsey requested board feedback on the issue.
1. David C. expressed feedback that the practice of assigning individuals to accessible courtrooms probably “technically complies” with the program access requirements.
  2. Lori suggested that it is important to be sure that the persons who answer phones for the District Court are informed of the availability of accessible courtrooms and policies. In the past, there had been some reports that when people who are deaf called in for jury duty, they were automatically excused, and this should not be the case. Sanford reported that he does not think this is the case anymore, as he served on a jury with a juror who was deaf.
  3. It was reported that Linda Marvin is the Jury Clerk, and she’s always been very aware of accessibility issues. However, it was understood that she’s retiring, so the new person in this role will need to understand the accommodation policy/obligation.
  4. Lori questioned if judges actually move courtrooms to make the accommodations, as she thought judges were assigned to one specific courtroom. Lindsey reported that it is her understanding from the District Court that judges can move courtrooms when necessary. This can be verified with the District Court. Dave C. reported that judges actually move quite a bit these days.
  5. Dave C. understood that jurors are supposed to be assigned randomly to various cases. How is this handled (randomly) when there is the need to be assigned to an accessible courtroom?
  6. John asked about accommodations for people who are hard of hearing? Assistive listening devices and CART systems are available upon request. The board provided feedback that individuals need to know what types of systems are available so that they can request what might work best for their needs.
  7. A question was asked about people in the past who expressed concerns that you had to have a “court order” to have an interpreter assigned. Lindsey reported that she has worked with the District Court on several

occasions regarding the need for an interpreter, and the interpreter has been provided with just a phone call to make the request. It was recommended that the policy be verified with the Jury Clerk, and confirm that it is an easy process.

**B. Accessible Parking Program (APP) – Lt. Doug Nolte**

- i. Lt. Nolte reported that he inherited the APP program in November, and has been learning about it. He explained where we're at right now:
  1. Issuing 500 – 700 tickets per year based on the volunteers.
  2. Numbers seem to be holding steady.
  3. Last training for volunteers was in May 2010, but he was not involved.
- ii. His thoughts on the program thus far:
  1. The program was started using Polaroid film. Film is expensive. Trying to transition to digital, as this will allow people to just take a photo of a violation when they see it (since most people have their own digital cameras). This will save the difficulty of volunteers having to drive to a substation to check out a camera.
  2. Apartment managers may be able to be trained as volunteers. This will help with those situations where people constantly report having violations at accessible spaces at apartment complexes.
  3. Also wants to encourage off duty officers to have their ticket book with them so they can write tickets when they see violations.
  4. Apartments and private property seem to be the areas where accessible parking is most abused.
  5. He wants a new training class for volunteers. He wants to find the right people who are qualified and proactive. In the past, there have been several people who trained, but then never wrote any tickets. Perhaps this was due to the inconvenience of having to go check out a camera.
  6. Improvements have been made since the start of the program, and very few tickets are being sent without a citation attached. Quality of work from the volunteers is good.
- iii. Dave C. asked about the additional qualifications that were added for volunteers after the start of the program. For example, that volunteers need to spend 10 – 20 hours per month. Lt. Nolte agreed that the standards need reviewed again. However, he emphasized that there have been changes for testifying in court, and the integrity of the ticket and person writing the ticket are important. He wants the standards high, but not so high that good volunteers are excluded. Dave reported that the criteria for volunteers was written into the settlement agreement with the City. However, that could be amended.
- iv. Dave also encouraged officers to continue to issue tickets for access aisle violations.

- v. Information on tickets issued is all in a database back to 2005.
- vi. Brian and the board expressed enthusiasm about having Lt. Nolte assigned to this program and working with the board for feedback.
- vii. Lt. Nolte provided information about his background and history with WPD.
- viii. Lt. Nolte is interested in identifying a volunteer who wishes to assist with coordination of the APP program. Let him know if you wish to volunteer.
- ix. Sanford questioned whether the 500 – 700 tickets are just the number written by this program. Lt. Nolte said that most violations for accessible parking are written through this program.
- x. Sanford suggested a 2-step approach to this issue:
  - 1. Education to public
  - 2. Enforcement
- xi. It was agreed that it is frustrating when a violation occurs and then people experience a hard time having someone come to write the ticket. By that time, the violator is often gone. Lt. Nolte explained that sometimes urgent issues arise, and priorities have to be established for multiple calls at the same time, so decisions are tough.
- xii. David C. expressed concern that enforcement seems like it may be down from in the past. Lt. Nolte reported that three individuals write about 85% of the tickets. More volunteers who are enthusiastic about enforcement may be necessary.
- xiii. Lt. Nolte hopes to streamline the APP volunteer qualifications, and plans to bring the revised proposed document to a future WSCAAB meeting.
- xiv. It was suggested that managers at large stores like Dillon’s would be good candidates for APP training.
- xv. Lori suggested that it would be interesting to know if we have repeat offenders.
- xvi. Other WPD issues:
  - 1. Sanford expressed concerns that service animal laws from 2003 are not enforced. Ex. – Situations where vicious dogs are trying to attack his service animal, or situations where access is denied due to a service animal.
  - 2. Lt. Nolte explained that if individuals receive “poor service,” they should contact WPD and ask to speak with a supervisor. Animal control is now under the police department, so that may help.
  - 3. If there are areas that can be improved, let Lt. Nolte know, and he’ll report those issues to the Chief.
  - 4. Lori suggested that as social media is used by WPD, it would be recommended to have captioning so that people who are deaf can watch any videos that are posted.

#### **IV. Updates**

- A. County ADA Update: Lindsey reported on several projects that are in progress, including the Kansas African American Museum that is bidding for architectural services at this time, and Lake Afton Park ADA Improvements project that recently had a final report provided by the architects. The report gives feedback on how to logically plan for ADA improvements, and one way to do this is to “cluster” some of the initial projects so that accessible fishing docks, picnic areas, and camping are established in a clustered location.
  
- B. City ADA Update: Migwi reported on a number of ADA projects that are bidding or in progress, including Chisholm Park Boardwalk (bids next month or two), Cowtown (bids next month), and several parks such as O.J. Watson and McAdams. The golf course 100% drawings are complete, and bids are expected in the next month or so. They also continue with curb ramps.
  
- V. **Public Comment:** David C. commented on Security at City Hall. He wonders why security at the County tends to make you feel “like a guest,” but at City Hall “like a suspect.”

**VI. Adjourn**

**The next meeting will be:**  
**Wednesday, July 27, 2011**  
**10:00-11:30 a.m. at Envision**

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