

Arkansas City Equal Opportunity and Accessibility Advisory Board
3/10/2022 Minutes

A regular meeting was held **Thursday, March 10, 2022**, at the Water Treatment Facility. Meeting was called to order at **4:05 p.m.**

I. Roll Call:

Board Members

Bob Baker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
JoAnn Bierle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
James Fry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anita Judd-Jenkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tammy Lanman-Henderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Frances "Rags" Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Liaisons

Mike Bellis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Randy Frazer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andrew Lawson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marla McFarland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larry Schwartz	<input type="checkbox"/>
Josh White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

II. Consent Agenda:

JoAnn made a motion to approve the minutes of the **February 10, 2022**, regular meeting as written. Anita seconded the motion, which was approved **4-0** on a voice vote.

III. Committee Updates:

The next regular 2022 Tacolalah Executive Committee meeting will be at **noon March 17** at the Water Treatment Facility.

IV. Old Business:

Tammy said is still interested in serving as a representative to the **Cowley County Council on Aging**. She attended the Council's February meeting to learn more and plans to continue attending. Andrew said he would forward her interest on.

He reminded the Board that Robin Henderson is requesting help from volunteers for her **Juneteenth 2022** event, to serve on a committee that works to recruit sponsors, vendors, and volunteers from now until the **June 18** event in Lovie Watson Park.

Andrew said James' ACES students are making good headway on assisting the City with its **sidewalk survey project** as part of a spring class project. Josh said there are already 300 entries on the new map. There have been just a few technical issues.

V. New Business:

The Board talked with Randy and Mike about their frustrations over how long it has taken to get anything done in terms of ADA improvements. The ADA Transition Plan was back in 2006 and even now, in 2022, many items remain to be done.

Mike said that with Andrew leaving, he will be the Board's primary liaison and he promised to see that things get done.

Tammy said she feels that the City does not care enough about its citizens, citing the example of JoAnn's recent eviction and an incident when she was discriminated decades ago when she first came to town. She talked about Donna Avery's impact.

Anita requested a follow-up report from City Attorney Larry Schwartz about what the City's legal rights may be in this area.

Tammy made a motion to ratify the revisions to the **Tacolalah Festival bylaws** as presented. Anita seconded the motion, which was approved **4-0** on a voice vote. Andrew said three other "parent boards" still have to approve them before they take effect.

Under the new bylaws, the Board still will retain an oversight stake and appoint a representative to the Executive Committee.

VI. Reports:

Mike expanded on Andrew's prior report about the new ADA parking stalls at the police department and public library. The "police parking only" sign at ACPD will be taken down once each individual space is marked with "police parking only".

Randy talked about the process to add items to the budget. The Board expressed frustration with many years of ADA delays.

Mike provided updated reports concerning the former Town House Motel and the Osage Apartments. Little has changed.

VII. Upcoming Proclamations:

As requested, Andrew provided the Board with the schedule of remaining City Commission proclamations for **2022**:

- Fair Housing Month — **5:30 p.m. April 5**
- Cinco de Mayo Day — **5:30 p.m. May 3**
- Foster Care Month — **5:30 p.m. May 3**
- Juneteenth National Independence Day — **5:30 p.m. June 7**
- National Disability Independence Day — **5:30 p.m. July 19**
- Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week — **5:30 p.m. Sept. 6**

Mike asked the Board to designate Terice Watts as **Secretary** and move the meetings to **3 p.m. on the second Thursday** of each month.

Andrew reminded the Board that there is still a vacancy to fill. Bobie indicated he would not seek reappointment when his term is up.

Tammy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Anita seconded the motion, which was approved **4-0** on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at **5:20 p.m.** The next meeting of the Equal Opportunity and Accessibility Advisory Board will be at **3 p.m. April 14, 2022.**