

# LAWRENCE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVOCACY COUNCIL ON AGING

Independence Inc., 2001 Haskell Avenue, Lawrence, KS 6044

Minutes of May 15, 2018

**Attending:** Mary Johnson, Ellen Paulsen, Marvel Williamson (Senior Resource Center), Susan Harris (JAAA)  
Tamara Cash, Judy Bellome, Tracy Harmon, Melissa Williams,

Judy welcomed all attendees to the meeting and introduced our speaker and topic for the day:  
Bob Nugent, Transit Authority

Following is a summary of Mr. Nugent's remarks:

- Lawrence has had a transit system since 1871, first using horse drawn vehicles. Transit was run by a private concern until the 70's. In 1971, the Lawrence Bus Company, a city service ceased operation.
- KU started bus service which was funded by students and run by students.
- In 2000, the city reached 50,000 population and was eligible for federal funding with dollar matching with the feds. This occurred in 2006-7-8.
- In 2008, transit services were put on the ballot. This was a special 10-year tax.
- In 2018, another 10 years of service was voted in.

The Transit Authority is a legal framework. The city did not create this. KU and the city have coordinated without federal dollars. The city has purchased the buses, KU has created the facility.

There are 2 services available in Lawrence.

- Local service is funded with state dollars and no federal dollars. To operate the buses, must consider the cost of drivers, fuel, maintenance.
- ADA service – funded with federal dollars – we cannot deny service. The cost is 5 times more than the fixed route service.

Amenities – currently there are shelters and benches. Note that there has been a 250% increase in ridership since 2009.

There will be another transit survey coming up. Here is the result of the last one.

- What would be the best place to have a center? The report concluded that 21<sup>st</sup> and Stewart would be the most central location. However, the city commission wouldn't vote on it.
- Conclusion – sit down with the city commission first.
- There was great neighborhood opposition to any center along 19<sup>th</sup> street.

Transit in the county. City does not serve the county. Discussion of regional transit involving Topeka, Lawrence, Wyandotte county and Kansas City. Transit evolves from 1-2 people to a van, to bus, to train.

Question of what LDCACA can do to support the transit efforts. Best to go to Facebook and follow the progress. Lawrence Transit System is the page.

Care Act – AARP will be setting up presentations. If we can gather 15 or more people – AARP will provide a speaker.

Affordable Housing- League of Women Voters program has been moved to Central Methodist Church, 1501 Massachusetts, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 8:30 pm. Panel will include Shannon Oury, Matthew Faulk and Lisa Larson.

Sidewalks and Accessibility – June speaker – David Krone and Chuck Soules were suggested as speakers.

The next meeting will be June 17 at 11:30 for eat and greet so bring your lunch and visit.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Johnson, Secretary

## **Breakout groups:**

**Transportation** – Brenda, MaryJ, Ellen, Dawn

**Caregiving** – Michele D, Tamara, Judy

**Affordable Housing** – Tamara, Brenda, Dawn