

Mayor's Council on Disability Issues (CODI)
April 8, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: Lemak called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allan, Bass, Brookshire, Dockery, Getino, Hector, Hunter, Johnson, Jones, Lemak, Moore, Newman, North, Payne and Secrest

MEMBERS ABSENT: Adams, Austin, Booher, and Gose

CITY STAFF: Stephanie Cook

GUESTS: Mr. Devin Lyon, Attorney, City Law Department and Dr. Rupy Sawhney, UTK Industrial Engineering Department

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION:

February minutes: A motion to approve the February 11th minutes was made by Brookshire and seconded by Johnson—motion carried.

Review of agenda: The agenda was accepted as written.

Introduction of Mr. Devin Lyon: Cook introduced Mr. Lyon as the City's Law Department representative of the Community Development Department and who is the person in charge of ensuring that CODI understands the Tennessee Open Meetings Act and its impact on CODI's function.

Mr. Lyon gave a presentation on the TN Open Meetings Act and explained how the purpose of it is to ensure that the public is able to attend meetings where CODI business is conducted. CODI is an appointed body which makes decisions that can affect recommendations on City policy or procedure, so it is important that the public be able to observe the meetings. Mr. Lyon reviewed the basics of the TN Open Meetings Act and that it is important to keep in mind that: all CODI business is public; no two members may discuss CODI business unless there is a quorum present; email communication is considered public record and subject to the Open Meetings Act; notice of meetings must be adequate, made public and timely. Each CODI meeting and committee meeting needs to be communicated on the website.

One change that CODI will need to make is that of the June vote for new members: rather than a paper ballot vote, members will need to provide a "voice vote". Cook will call the roll and each member will vote on the nominee individually.

Introduction of Dr. Rupy Sawhney: Cook introduced Dr. Sawhney, who is a professor in UTK's College of Industrial Engineering. Dr. Sawhney is leading a team of graduate Engineering students who are developing a mobile application to increase communication accessibility to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in order to be able to independently ride public transit, called Project Eric.

Dr. Sawhney described his vision for a “disability friendly community” and how, while developing the Project Eric application, his team collected and analyzed an enormous amount of data from people with disabilities and seniors to learn about the barriers that they experience on a daily basis. While the focus of the data was on barriers to riding public transit, numerous themes emerged that were applicable to many aspects of life, which led Dr. Sawhney and his team to imagine a way to make more improvements to access for people with disabilities.

Dr. Sawhney requested a meeting with Mayor Rogero to describe a potential project in which his team would work with CODI to look at all aspects of community and how people with disabilities interact in it to learn of ways to improve access through data collection and possibly new technology. Mayor Rogero agreed that this was a viable project and requested that CODI partner with Dr. Sawhney and his team via a letter dated January 30, 2015.

Dr. Sawhney asked CODI members who might be interested in being on a committee to work with he and his team on this project. The following members volunteered: Getino, Hector, Hunter, Johnson, Jones, Moore, Payne and Newman. Getino volunteered to be the Chair of this committee. Johnson made a **motion** to officially form this subcommittee. Hunter seconded and the motion carried.

Transportation Committee: Secrest gave the report (attached,) and said that the committee needs to re-group on the parking study. This committee will look at design and location of accessible parking downtown with the goal of assessing the various parking lots and garages to see if an appropriate number of spaces are provided.

CODI Anniversary Celebration and ADA Legacy Bus Tour Update: Moore distributed applications for booth space on Market Square during the ADA celebration and encouraged members to share them throughout their networks. Space is free for nonprofits and \$100 for companies and vendors. A flyer for service providers has been created and a “save the date” flyer is in progress. Moore and Cook will be on WATE Channel 6 news on April 25th to discuss the day’s events.

Brookshire reported that the location and menu are finalized and the Mayor has agreed to sign the letters of invitation. A flyer will be sent to agencies about the event. Some items that still needed to be decided on are: the amount of money to allot to the framing of the poster that will be signed and the size of the poster to have printed. After some discussion, North made a **motion** to spend no more than \$350 on the frame. Hector seconded and the motion carried. After Cook explained the option for the poster’s size, Moore made a **motion** to purchase the 22” x 33” size poster and allow Getino and Hunter to handle the choice of frame and mat. Newman seconded and the motion carried.

Brookshire described the program layout as including brief remarks from the Mayor, former Mayor Kyle Testerman and/or Wanda Moody, remarks from Chair Lemak and then networking and visiting while the PowerPoint presentation (that Getino is developing,) plays on the screen. This will allow attendees time to add their input to the timeline and provide their comments or memories from when they served on CODI. After some discussion, Bass made a **motion** to allow former mayors and City Council

members, if interested, to speak for a maximum of 30 minutes. Secrest seconded and the motion carried.

Discussion ensued about the fact that CODI needs a place to “archive” CODI memorabilia such as the framed poster and the original book that inspired it, plus the Equity Award that was received a few years ago. Cook stated that she is not aware of available space, is willing to explore some options.

May 13th Taping: The topic is “Timeline from High School to Post Secondary Education”. Gose, Getino and Moore are heading up the taping outline and speakers, but since the 30th Anniversary Celebration is set for May 14th and there is so much to do prior to the event, Getino made a **motion** to postpone this taping until next year. Secrest seconded and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS--None

Announcements:

- Cook stated that Hubert Smith wanted CODI to know that he had hosted CAC and UTK staff on his talk show to discuss Project Eric and that it would air this Friday. All are encouraged to watch the show and provide feedback.
- Catalyst Adaptive Climbing is the first Saturday of the month. Everyone is encouraged to come and climb! (Bass)
- Anyone who would like to keep up with matters of public policy should contact Disability Rights Tennessee to be included on their distribution list. (Bass)
- April is Autism Awareness month and the Breakthrough Race will be held on April 18th at Pinnacle in Turkey Creek. (Getino)
- The Knoxville Entrepreneur Center (KEC) will host CODI and others in the community who wish to share their challenges and ideas for the entrepreneurial community on May 14th at their office on Market Square. They will also be available to collect CODI historical information. Everyone is encouraged to participate and spread the word. (Getino)

Public Forum: None

Being no further business, Lemak adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Coral Getino, Secretary and Stephanie Cook, City Liaison