

Mayor's Council on Disability Issues (CODI)
June 10, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: Lemak called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Hector and Secret

CITY STAFF: Stephanie Cook

GUESTS: LaKeitha Jackson, Melissa Van Dyke, and Joyce Brumbaugh (representing Pellissippi State's Universal Pathways to Employment Project, or UPEP) came to observe the CODI meeting.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION:

April minutes: A motion to approve the April 8th minutes was made by Bass and seconded by Hunter—motion carried.

Lemak stated that, when making motions, it is helpful for full discussion to occur about an issue (i.e. committee reports, proposed initiatives, etc.) prior to making and seconding the motion. This helps reduce confusion on who makes or amends the motion—particularly for people who are deaf and the interpreters present.

Review of agenda: The agenda was accepted as written.

Transportation Committee: In Secret's absence, Cook gave the report (attached,) and pointed out two items in particular: one is that the study of downtown accessible parking is still needing to be done (that the committee agreed to do some time ago,) and the second is that on-demand rides provided by companies such as "Uber" have been given the green light by the state legislature, by removing the local authority's ability to regulate the services. This is unfortunate, because "Uber" services are not known to be disability-friendly.

CODI Anniversary Celebration and ADA Legacy Bus Tour Update/Debrief: Lemak stated that the celebration was a huge success and thanked Moore, Brookshire and Getino for all of their hard work to make it so. Moore related the need for marketing materials for CODI to have for future events.

CODI Officer and New Member Nominations Update: Cook gave a brief overview of the outcome from the Nominating Committee meeting and read the minutes aloud for all who were present (copies were not available.) The result is that the top five candidates (Davidson, Neely, Sawhney, Shilling and Shipley,) were chosen by the committee and submitted to the full membership for consideration. Cook explained that this is allowed, per the bylaws.

Some brief facts about the nominees are as follows:

Angie Davidson is the City of Knoxville's Recreation Program Coordinator. She has a degree in Therapeutic Recreation and has previously worked at Patricia Neal Rehabilitation Center and Breakthrough Corporation. She has a passion for providing recreational opportunities to people with disabilities and looks forward to working with CODI to get ideas on ways the City's Parks and Recreation Department can be more inclusive.

Janet Neely is a Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS) and Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) with a history of teaching students in the Occupational Therapy field how to help people with disabilities (particularly neurological disabilities,) become more independent. She also has experience in home health care and gerontology, where she sees many needs of seniors and people with disabilities as it relates to home accessibility and appropriate transportation.

Dr. Rupy Sawhney is a Professor of Industrial Engineering at the University of TN. For the last three years, Dr. Sawhney and his team of graduate students have worked with CAC on a grant to develop a communication app for mobile devices that will enhance the independent use of public transportation for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. During the project, Dr. Sawhney saw a need to expand the collection of data about barriers for people with disabilities and has committed to working on an initiative to make Knoxville the "Most Disability Friendly City."

Jennifer Shilling is an Advocate with Disability Rights Tennessee, who specializes in working with children in the educational environment to see that they have the accommodations needed to succeed in school. She has previous employment experience with the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). She has a passion for the education and employment of people with disabilities.

Christina Shipley is the Family Support Coordinator at the Cerebral Palsy Center. As a Native American woman with a son who has "diffabilities," she has seen many ways in which disability and culture can go hand in hand or collide when people are striving for independence. Ms. Shipley previously worked at CAC on the mobile communication application initiative known as Project ERIC and has a passion for the disability community and looking for ways to remove barriers to independence.

New Member and Officer Nominations: Nominees were given an opportunity to speak to CODI on their own behalf, prior to the vote. Each of the top five nominees did so, and when finished, Cook called the roll and each member voted for the nominees for new members with each of the five receiving the majority affirmative votes. Cook will forward their names to the Mayor's office for placement on the June 23rd City Council meeting agenda for official appointment.

Chair Lemak and Vice Chair Johnson are eligible and willing to serve a second term in their respective roles. Given that no name was submitted for nomination to the position of Secretary, and Secretary Getino has reached the end of her two terms on the Executive Committee, it was discussed that a nominee for the Secretary position was needed. Hunter nominated North, who accepted the nomination.

After the member and officer slate was complete, the membership voted individually on each of the five new member nominees, officers and current members' extension of term. The results were as follows: Davidson, Neely, Sawhney, Shilling and Shipley

were voted on as new members. Their names will be submitted to the Mayor's office for the June 23rd City Council meeting, seeking appointment to a three-year term which will begin on July 1, 2015.

[Chair Lemak had to leave at 5:00 p.m. Vice Chair Johnson continued leading the meeting.]

August retreat date: Two options for the retreat date were sent via Doodle survey to the membership. Not all members completed the survey, so Lemak proposed two dates for discussion which are: August 7th and August 14th (both Fridays.) Allan made a **motion** to hold the retreat on August 14th and Moore seconded. Motion carried. Moore made a **motion** to have the retreat at dRC. Austin seconded and the motion carried.

Payne suggested that, since CODI will be near downtown for the retreat, that time be set aside for the parking study to be done on August 14th. The idea is that all of CODI (if interested,) participate in the study and get it done, so that the Transportation Committee will have this data and be able to move forward with this project. The idea was received favorably.

Signing of "Open Meetings Act" Acknowledgement: Cook provided members with a personalized copy of the City's "Open Meetings Act" acknowledgement. All present signed and submitted a signed copy.

Website updates needed: Cook related that, with the CODI 30th anniversary activities and the revamp of the City's website, it is evident now more than ever that CODI needs to take a close look at the information on their web page and make appropriate updates.

Branding materials needed: Cook related that the 30th anniversary celebration was a perfect example of why CODI needs to take another look at the creation of a logo or other "branding materials" for the community to better understand CODI's purpose.

Given the need for full membership discussion on the website updates and new branding materials, it was agreed that these two topics would be on the retreat agenda, in addition to the potential bylaws changes. Cook will draft a retreat agenda and send to all, for solicitation of additional agenda items to be discussed on August 14th.

July 8th Taping: The "Timeline from High School to Post-Secondary Education" taping originally scheduled for May 13th was postponed until next year at the April 2015 meeting. After a review of the 2014 retreat minutes, it was discovered that no taping was scheduled for July 2015, in lieu of new member orientation. Therefore, this topic will be placed on the 2016 taping agenda which will give Getino and Moore a chance to seek additional partners to plan the discussion, now that Gose has resigned.

July 8th webinar on Transportation: The Transportation Committee has decided to meet at the dRC on July 8th to participate in a webinar on transportation—issues on the agenda are new regulations, funding sources, etc. The webinar is set for 2:00 p.m. and all are invited.

Given the close proximity to the August retreat date, Moore suggested that anyone interested in working on the retreat agenda could meet at 1:30 at the dRC prior to the webinar. Therefore, everyone is invited to be at the dRC for the retreat agenda discussion and transportation webinar on July 8th at 1:30 p.m.

August regular business meeting: Getino made a **motion** to cancel the August 12th regular business meeting in lieu of the August 14th all-day retreat. Allan seconded and the motion carried.

New member orientation: Typically, the second Wednesday in July is set aside for new member orientation, since official Mayor and City Council appointment takes place at the end of June. However, since there is a meeting to discuss the retreat agenda and a Transportation Committee meeting set for July 8th, it was suggested that the orientation take place on July 15th instead. Cook will explore this option and alert new members to the change.

NEW BUSINESS

Payne asked for information about the annual Accessibility Symposium. Cook stated that, instead of the City hosting this symposium this year, there is a collaborative effort between the City Disability Services Office, the Knoxville-Knox County CAC's Office on Aging and the TN Council on Aging and Disability to present a "Livability Summit". The date is November 12th and CODI will be welcomed in the planning of the event, once a few more logistics (location) are finalized. Cook will keep everyone posted.

Announcements:

- The Common Heritage grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities deadline to apply is June 25th. This is a grant available to digitize historical documents/materials. It would be a great opportunity for CODI to be able to utilize this money to archive some of their historical information, but the deadline may be too soon to apply. (Getino)
- The Train of the Mutilated is a community discussion about the treacherous travel necessary for immigrants coming to the U.S. seeking a better life. Too often, when attempting to get on or off the train, people fall and are severely injured, often losing limbs and having to live with amputation. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss immigration reform in a "personal way" and to bring together the cultures of non-U.S. citizens and the disability community to explore their common ground. The event will take place at Holy Ghost at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 12th and all are invited to attend. (Getino)
- Susan Lee, the photographer at the 30th anniversary celebration, is working on compiling pictures taken into a book. She is in need of pictures from throughout the day on Market Square, where the ADA celebration took place. (Moore will help to provide these pictures.) Once the book is completed, a copy will be given to the Mayor. (Brookshire)
- Everyone is invited to help write an article for *Breaking Ground* (the statewide magazine produced by the TN Council on Developmental Disabilities,) about the 25th ADA celebration and CODI's 30th anniversary. (Getino)

Public Forum: None

Being no further business, Austin made a motion to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Moore seconded and the motion carried. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

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