

Knoxville Mayor's Council on Disability Issues

March 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Zoom

I. Meeting called to order at 4:01 pm.

- CODI Chair VanDyke requested we observe a moment of silence in observance for the people in Ukraine.

II. Roll Call:

Members: Alexander, Barber, Briggs, Childress, Colebrooke, Cook, Dziubak, Foutch, Jenkins, Landfather, Lowe, Moore, Mull, NeSmith, Orr, Rodgers, Simmons, Spangler, VanDyke, Villanueva, Welch

Present: Alexander, Barber, Briggs, Childress, Colebrooke, Cook, Dziubak, Foutch, Jenkins, Landfather, Lowe, Mull, Moore, Nesmith, Orr, Simmons, VanDyke, Villanueva, Welch

Absent: Barber, Rodgers, Spangler

Guests: Amanda Lay, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, and Sydney Sandefur, Intern CoK Parks & Recreation

Interpreters: Jessica Brackeen, Haile Stewart

III. Approval of February Minutes:

1st motion made by Dennis Landfather, 2nd motion by Nancy Welch, motion carried with all in favor, and none opposed. The motion passed.

IV. Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month, Amanda Lay, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Amanda Lay graciously shared her life story as a person with Cerebral Palsy. Amanda communicated that her mother was in a serious boating accident when she was pregnant with Amanda and because of that accident, she and Amanda were both in distress therefore delivering Amanda by c- section at three months premature. Amanda spent the first three months after birth in the hospital's NICU because her lungs had not developed enough to breathe on her own. Amanda's mother first noticed something was

not quite right with Amanda when she was not reaching the typical growth milestones. Shortly thereafter, Amanda was diagnosed with Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy. Cerebral Palsy is defined as a disability that affects a person's ability to move and maintain posture. There are five different levels of Cerebral Palsy and is caused by the brain being deprived of oxygen during delivery, or due to an injury.

When Amanda was in Middle School, she was mainstreamed in the general education setting, but was also in special education for physical and occupational therapy. Thanks to the ADA of 1990, Amanda was the first person in her county to be fully mainstreamed in the general education setting at her high school. Amanda stated, "I taught the school and the school system how to accommodate me."

Amanda disclosed that being mainstreamed at her high school changed the projectory of her life and that attending high school in a general education setting was one of the best decisions she has ever made. Amanda said her perspectives are broader and more inclusive now. After high school she obtained her Associates Degree and then transferred to the University of Maryland where she earned her BA in Communications.

There were some who thought Amanda would never graduate college because of a learning disability in math and serious health issues, however she graduated college in eight years. Amanda contributes her faith and her family for sustaining her. She is currently working as a support broker for individuals with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities who are on the self-directed waiver in the state of Maryland. Amanda's role is also to be a mentor and coach as she monitors her clients' state budgets and supports them in recruiting staff.

Amanda is also a self-advocate for People on the Go in Maryland where she helps young people with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities develop skills for successfully advocating for themselves. Amanda is currently serving her final year of a 10-year term Governors Appointment on the Executive Committee for the Maryland Council of Developmental Disability.

Amanda believes being a person with a disability has added to her credibility professionally by providing her a unique and beautiful ability to see others in the world. Amanda shared that she would not be where she is today if not for her faith, family, and amazing friends.

V. Dynamic Softball League, Sydney Sandefur, Intern for CoK Parks & Recreation

Sydney Sandefur, Intern for Knoxville Parks & Recreation shared information on the Dynamic Softball League. The City of Knoxville's Dynamic Recreation Program aims to provide leisure and recreational opportunities for individuals with varying disabilities in

the community. Through their programs, education, and advocacy, individuals can build confidence, improve physical and cognitive abilities, expand support and social networks, and enhance their overall quality of life.

Dynamic Softball League serves the following agencies: Sertoma Center, Cerebral Palsy Center, Breakthrough Corporation, ARC of Knoxville, Tennessee School for the Deaf, and Disability Resource Center

The Dynamic Softball League serves people with all types of disabilities, but most commonly serves those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Current Programs:

- Dynamic Softball League
- Adaptive Video Gaming
- Adaptive Kayaking
- Exercise Class
- Life-size Football
- Bowling
- Power Soccer

Dynamic Softball League Rules:

- Based on Special Olympic Unified Model
- Teams will have an even number of Athletes and Partners
- Partners are peers without disabilities
- Athletes must be allowed to play their positions
- Alternates both batting order and field positions
- 4 strikes rule: After strike 3, the batter will get to choose to be pitched a final ball or bat off a tee.

There is NO FEE to Play, the City of Knoxville Disability Services office donates to cover team fees for both partners and athletes. Games will be played on Thursday evenings between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at Caswell Park. Meet and Greet night is on March 31st from 6:00-7:00pm at Caswell Park. Games will officially start on April 7th.

For more information, please reach out to Daniel Alexander, CTRS

Email: dalexander@knoxvilletn.gov

VI. Member Advocacy and Information

- No Member Advocacy or Information was reported

VII. Committee Reports:

Bylaws:

- Did not meet

Membership:

- Will be meeting on Monday, March 21 from 3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
- Will be looking over nominations in order to fill Annazette Houston and Laykoon Huang's remaining terms.
- Cook reported we need everyone to be thinking about joining the Executive Committee. If interested in becoming an officer for CODI, reach out to Dziubak or Cook

Community Engagement:

- Combined with Universal Design this month

Transportation:

- Cook – KAT is still working with CODI, DRC and the Mall on a stop at the mall--likely off Gleason Road. Currently, information is being gathered about how to provide traffic control to allow the bus to turn in and out of Gleason as efficiently as possible.
- In the last meeting with the mall, it was agreed that once changes are made in March, it will still be possible to make another adjustment later in the year, once all information is gathered and the best plan is available and ready to implement.
- VanDyke – At the last meeting, KAT admitted statistics were not correct. They had talked to bus driver, and he stated that he remembers many people getting on and off there.
- KAT proposed three different options:
 - Coming in off Montvue would be easiest for Kat to stay on target time.
 - Second option would be to come in through the back of the mall (Gleason) would have to make a left hand turn in and out of and would not be very efficient.
 - Third option would be to do what they used to do and let people on and off near Belk and Cinnebar. Mall management would prefer the one they have always done. All the large stores have agreements about their

parking spaces, so mall management would have to talk with Dick's or Belk, etc.

- Foutch – Having a stop near a main entrance is pertinent since department stores may have different hours than the main mall. Plus, if a third-party store leaves, the parking space issue would have to be renegotiated by the mall.
- VanDyke – Ball is in KAT's court as Simon has said "this is what we'd like see done – the way it used to be done" and they know that the public would like this stop. Manager of Simon mall is retiring in July, but he brought his assistant who may be the next manager.
- VanDyke – There is not another scheduled meeting with the mall as of right now. KAT needs to decide what they can and cannot do first. Once this occurs, a service change would need to be presented to KAT's board.

VIII. Strategic plan reports:

Livability:

- The Livability Committee reviewed, edited, and finalized the Chamber of Commerce email blast that Conya created, adding statistics and modifying verbiage.
 - This will be used as a base for developing a script members can use when going to locations to do the Accessibility Checklist.
- Businesses who participate in successfully completing the Accessibility Checklist will be listed on the CODI website.
- Dziubak informed the committee the window clings are now printed and both those and the tablets ordered for this project are in the office.
- Dziubak reported monthly speakers for March's main CODI meeting:
 - Amanda Lay speaking about Cerebral Palsy
 - Daniel Alexander speaking about Dynamic Sports
- Dziubak is working on making the checklist completely accessible through Adobe Acrobat.

Universal Design:

A Community Engagement & Universal Design Joint Committee meeting took place to discuss the upcoming "Dinner & Design" Event:

- All CODI members should be involved and plan on attending this event
- Event locations were suggested, and must be accessible via KAT
- Length / Time of Event should be two hours 6:00pm – 8:00pm
- CODI can fundraise, but all sponsor documents must include the verbiage "By sponsoring this event, you affirm that your donation complies with Chapter 2,

Article VIII, Section 11 of the Knoxville Code relating to Ethics in Public Contracting and assert that your donation is not intended to influence the City's selection of vendors for any future contract. While the intention of sponsoring this event is appreciated, no donations will be accepted from vendors registered with the City's Purchasing Department."

- The City will accept donations on CODI's behalf and will direct all acquired funds toward the event. (Checks made out to City of Knoxville, Memo Line Should read "CODI Dinner & Design.")
- "Universal Design: What's Accessible and What's Not" PowerPoint was discussed in detail
 - Eric Moore volunteered to create the PowerPoint Presentation
 - Goals and objectives
 - Minimally sharing the demographic of people who benefit and are actively looking for housing
 - Show how it could be profitable for them
 - Show how universal Design is cheaper on the front end rather than building after the fact
 - Topography does not matter if you consider visitable housing on paper; at least one area should be able to have zero-step entry.
 - Why does it matter, why should you care?
 - Anecdotal information from builders, developers, and residents of accessible and/or visitable homes.

IX. New business:

- Laykoon Huang has resigned from CODI as of February 25, 2022
- Parking PSA video edits have been made, verbiage has been created by Dziubak, and she will be doing the voiceover portion before the April meeting.
- Dziubak and Cook are in the City County Building Offices every Monday and Wednesday.

X. Announcements & public forum:

- On Thursday, March 11, 2021, the Tennessee legislature passed a proclamation honoring disability advocacy making this Friday the second celebration of Disability Advocacy Day in Tennessee. The Henley Street Bridge will be lit up in blue in recognition.
 - <https://www.tndisability.org/disability-advocacy-day>

Xi. Meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.