

1. Meeting was called to order at: 4:04 p.m.
2. Roll Call:
 - Present- Sandy Booher, Burke Brewer, Angie Davidson, Meaghan Johnson, Kerry Jones, Craig Lemak, Katherine Moore, Janet Neely, Angela Petty, Rupy Sawhney, Jennifer Shilling, and City staff: Stephanie Cook and Misha Byrne
 - Absent- Mark Allen, Larry Austin, Judi Brookshire, Annazette Houston, Laykoon Huang, Josh Loebner, Terri Newman, Warren Secrest, Christina Shipley, Melissa VanDyke
 - Public Forum Guests- Darris Upton, Gail Padgett
3. Update on PBA Contract for Facility Improvements (Keith Kirkland, PBA):

Keith started with PBA in January, has also worked at Clarence Brown Theatre specifically with closed captioning for the disability community. He is also a certified playground safety inspector. PBA is looking at executing improvements at 9 locations and has done site assessments on what has changed since 2015. That have revised the scopes from the original 2015 assessment and already have quotes on 4 of the 9 sites. They hope to get quotes on the other five by the time of City Council approval for improvements at the 9 sites. These sites include: Holston River Park, Inskip Pool and Park, Sam A. Duff Park, West Hills/John Byron Park, John T. O'Connor Senior Center, Lonsdale Park & Recreation Center, Sharp's Ridge Veterans' Memorial Park, Victor Ashe Park, and Inskip Recreation Center.
4. Approval of February Minutes: Approved by Rupy and Burke carried.
5. Follow up from February Meeting:
 - Rupy gave update that surveys have been updated. He is still waiting on Shrivanti to send him the final surveys, but anticipated this will happen soon and he has stated intention to email the surveys out by the end of the following week to all CODI members, along with a tentative plan with people who would like to participate.
 - Angie has no significant updates regarding website development. CODI members were to bring suggestions in December, and she would like to do a comparison with other sites similar to CODI to see what interesting features we could add. Stephanie also gave an update on the acronyms list, website list, and FAQ list that Misha is preparing for upload to the CODI webpage. Misha has asked for a date of March 28, 2018 for final suggestions on the additions to be sent to her for revision. Angie suggested Traci train Misha to access and update CODI page.

- Jennifer will update us when a decision is made regarding the access issue to the Social Security Office on Kingston Pike.
- Meaghan confirmed that CODI is on-track for their target date of June to meet with Mayor Madeline Rogero to share the CODI strategic plan. *See *Strategic Action Steps Sheet from 2/14/18*
- Stephanie will be contacting Paige Travis to see if she can assist CODI to establish a social media presence which highlights past, present, and future accomplishments and goals. Angie mentioned that she could also volunteer to update a Facebook page as well.
- Stephanie had reached out to the Knox County ADA Coordinator who is newly appointed regarding the issues surrounding bringing a service animal into the downtown library. Almost two months ago, CODI member Angela brought her service animal with her to the downtown library. A private security guard from Walden Security, did not ask if her animal was a service animal, but instead insisted that he would have to see her dog's shot records before the animal would be allowed inside. He persisted and when she clarified that if she didn't have her animal's records with her that she was essentially being kicked out of the library, he responded with "exactly", then claimed the dog assaulted him by sniffing his shoe. Nelda Hill, Library staff, commented "I've never seen a service dog sleep before". DRC sent what the law states to them. Angela stated that the 180 days to take action concerns her. Stephanie could not get the ADA Coordinator to go to the library with her and is unclear as to what has transpired since first bringing it to his attention. She will follow up with Mike Dunthorn (City Homeless Program Manager who visited the library with Stephanie initially) and give update at the April meeting.
 - Guest Gail believes it's sad we're still dealing with this issue in this day and time.
 - Guest Darris thinks it speaks to the greater issue of stereotyping and 'what a service dog is', what people with a disability 'look like'. Thinks it is worth asking the County Commission if this is "how we feel". If it takes this long to get closure when employees are handling things this way, what message is being sent by how slow action is or not addressing it

Stephanie thinks it is a good idea to invite Tony Smith, Knox County ADA Coordinator, to come to a CODI meeting. Help him understand CODI's intent and purpose, and that CODI is a partner to Knox County when it comes to disability-related issues.

- Each member had been requested to pick three offsite locations to go tour and have a meeting at which will make CODI more visible in the community. The John O'Connor Center was added to the list, joining the Knox County Health Department, Community Action Committee, UT

Extension, American Job Center, Parks and Recreation / Lakeshore Park, and Tennessee School for the Deaf. It was decided that since there were 8 places listed, and 8 more CODI meetings this year, that visiting one location per meeting would be tried for. The first tentative meeting of this nature is to be April at the Knox County Health Department.

6. Transportation Committee Report:

Sandy gave update that four items were discussed.

- UTK Parking, which is not yet resolved. Stephanie will follow up with the committee and possibly Mark Hairr regarding this.
- Accessible Taxis – Dawn Distler and Doug Barton will be invited to the next Transportation Committee meeting to discuss possibilities.
- Social Security Building Parking – Lillian Burch will be facilitating a DRC action plan for Be Street Smart, to be held at the Social Security Office.
- CAC Transit – New deviated flex schedule was discussed.

7. Update on website research, acronyms, and FAQs:

Previously discussed during today's follow up for February meeting.

8. Officer Recruitment:

Madam Chair rotates off at the end of June along with Vice Chair and Secretary. Please consider who might be a good candidate for officer and let the Nominating committee know by first Friday in April. If no nominations are given, CODI will select and ask members. Final nominations are due the first week of April.

9. Strategic Plan Review / Discussion (Action Groups 20 minutes):

Not enough members attending today to invest time in breakout groups. Table until April.

10. New Business:

- Knoxville Chamber is accepting submitted requests to be a speaker. Would CODI be interested in doing a presentation? CODI replied in the affirmative.
- Sponsorships for the Goodwill Awards Banquet – Mark purchased a sponsorship and has asked if he can use the CODI logo on Awards Information in place of his business logo. Stephanie will ask about legality of doing that since the Goodwill Awards is agency specific.
- It was discussed to perhaps do the Neighborhood Conference next year where CODI gives a presentation, a Q&A panel, and Breakout Groups.

Stephanie mentioned that Community Development will have a table and perhaps a postcard handout with survey link could be given out that day at the table.

- Burke, owner of Modern Studio, got an email from the owner of Relix, Dan Shue, for a community meeting regarding safety concerns. At this meeting, the main topic was concern over KARM and concentration of mental illness. She believes that people who are homeless must be supported in a way that also supports mental illness. Concern over being 'held-up' was mentioned as was the serious issue with homelessness of the mentally ill since Lakeshore Mental Health Institute was closed. One idea proposed was to have the business group that Burke met with come speak at a future CODI meeting. Stephanie suggested that perhaps Mike Dunthorn, the Homeless Program Coordinator from Community Development can also come to that same meeting. It was also mentioned that the Mayor has a round-table on the topic of homelessness that they could possibly attend. Stephanie may invite other pertinent city people but also mentioned wanting to get CoK to give the go ahead on this type of CODI meeting since there are others in the city that deal with this topic. Stephanie will check to see who from the city would like to attend, and will work with Burke to get a list of the business owners that would like to attend. Angela mentioned that City Council has discussed this very topic and will build a \$500,000.00 courtyard with phone chargers, staffed by caseworkers and police.
- It was asked if CODI is able to send out correspondence from the group, such as to Mayor Burchett, saying something along the lines of "We're so excited to work with your new ADA Coordinator". Stephanie will ask about this.

11. Announcements and Public Forum:

- Kerry, Knoxville Stroke Group, mentioned that he needs a speaker for April 10 and June 12. The speaker should tell about their organization and what they do.
 - Guest Gail spoke to Stephanie before attending and is happy to see this council because it's very needed. Her son is now thirty years old, and she mentioned it taking so long to get things done in so many aspects concerning disability. She loves to see the diverse voices in harmony and compassion. She would love to be on the board, and will be acquiring a nomination.
 - Guest Darris will also be receiving a nomination and he is currently finishing his masters in social work, as well as being a navy veteran. Darris mentioned the Tiny Homes that Madisonville is building for their homeless population.

- Burke has found good opportunities for care for people who are homeless and have mental illness with such entities as Helen Ross McNabb.

12. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Misha Byrne