

Mayor's Council on Disability Issues (CODI)
February 10, 2016
City-County Building
SMALL ASSEMBLY ROOM

Meaghan Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Austin, Booher, Brookshire, Davidson, Dockery, Getino, Hector, Hunter, Johnson, Jones, Moore, Neely, North, Payne, Secrest and Shilling

MEMBERS ABSENT: Allan, Lemak, Newman, Sawhney and Shipley

CITY STAFF: Stephanie Cook

GUESTS:

Joyce Brumbaugh, Pellissippi State Community College

Doug Minter, Knoxville Chamber of Commerce

Heather Shultz, Camp Koi No Nia

Motion to approve December minutes as written was made by Neely and seconded by Brookshire. Motion carried. **Motion** to approve January minutes as amended (by adding "Special Called" and adding the date of January 13, 2016) was made by Neely and seconded by Hector. Motion carried.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION:

Joyce Brumbaugh is a career specialist with Pellissippi State's Universal Pathways to Employment. Joyce gave a PowerPoint presentation about the program. The program's mission is to deliver career training to students with disabilities. The program is available to students enrolled in Pellissippi State Technical Community College.

Doug Minter shared a video about the Diversity Champions group. The video serves as a call to action to break down social barriers in the city, and to challenge Knoxville's residents to be more accepting and inclusive. CODI provided excellent feedback on how to make the video more universally accessible.

Nominating Committee

Cook passed out Nominating Forms. There was a question about the age minimum. Does CODI require members to be at least 18 years of age? Cook will discuss with members of other City boards to see what the typical age requirements are.

Employment Committee

The committee is working with the Knoxville Area Employment Consortium (KAEC) on a sticker to recognize employers who are committed to the employment of people with

disabilities. They have made a series of short videos with CTV called "Employment Matters". CTV will let us know when the videos will be available for the public.

Potential other taping topics include: "Social Security and the Power of Work," "What It Means to be Employed," "Project SEARCH," "Questions Employers Want to Ask but Are Afraid," and "Gatti's Pizza." One option might be to interview Meredith and Michael—two individuals who shared their employment stories at the 2015 Disability Employment Recognition Breakfast. The committee asked CODI to think about other employers they should reach out to and invite to discuss their disability employment initiatives and successes.

Transportation Committee

Wendy Hector gave a report on two new issues. KAT is considering discontinuing the Trolley route that serves Summit Towers. The KAT bus route that serves Dandridge Avenue does not run on Sundays. Next vote is February 23rd and the period for public comments has passed. Hector made a **motion** that CODI strongly recommend to KAT that they continue the trolley route serving Summit Towers. Johnson second and the motion carried.

Awareness/ PR Committee

Katherine Moore gave the report. The committee has a conceptual design for new informational rack cards for CODI. The cards will explain who we are, how long we've been around, our mission/ vision statement, link to our website, and a message from the Mayor. Card will be on a single page printed front and back. They are also working adding more color to the website and adding links to the organizations that are represented. They are working on a new graphic CODI logo and will have drafts for the group to vote on at the April meeting.

Most Disability Friendly City Committee

It was agreed that the survey needs to be inclusive of the "livable communities" concept, since that is the direction many communities are moving towards. Cook will send the parameters of "livable communities" to be included in the survey.

New Business/Announcements

Mary Thom Adams is the new Executive Director of the East TN Technology Access Center (ETTAC). They are hosting a Painting with a Twist event on February 24th from 6:00pm-8:00pm. The cost is \$35. On March 19th at the Lighthouse ETTAC is having a Night at Old Havana dinner/dancing fundraising event. Tickets are \$25. (Payne)

A planning meeting for the Anti-bullying "Be a Friend, Not a Bully" Festival will take place on March 3rd at the DRC at 3:00pm. The Festival is October 19th.

Joni Erickson Tada ("Joni & Friends") will be in Knoxville to speak on October 11th. (Payne)

City of Knoxville Parks & Recreation is hosting a pickle ball tournament April 14th -17th. The tournament will include a dynamic recreation division for people with disabilities. This event will be the first of its kind in the US! The tournament will be held at the pickle ball courts at West Hills Park. (Davidson)

ETTAC drum circle will be held on March 1st from 1:00pm-2:00pm. (Austin)

Breakthrough's Run/Walk for Autism takes place on April 9th at 8:00am. Event fliers were distributed. Volunteers are needed for the event. (Brookshire)

Public Forum:

Heather Shultz from Camp Koi No Nia announced that the camp will begin hosting events for students who have aged out of the summer camp program. They are in the process of scheduling monthly events. For more information please email Heather: hshultz@vols.utk.edu

Johnson adjourned the meeting a 5:43pm

Next CODI meeting will be Wednesday, April 13 at 4pm in the Small Assembly Room

Respectfully submitted by Whitney North, Secretary and Stephanie Cook