

Mayor's Council on Disability Issues (CODI)
Regular Business Meeting October 14, 2015
City-County Building
SMALL ASSEMBLY ROOM

Vice Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allan, Austin, Davidson, Dockery, Hector, Hunter, Johnson, Jones, Neely, Payne, Sawhney, Secret, Shilling

MEMBERS ABSENT: Booher, Brookshire, Getino, Lemak, Moore, Newman, North and Shipley

GUESTS:

Anne Wallace, Assistant Director of Policy & Redevelopment
Brent Hemsley, Autism Achievement Academy

The minutes from the special called September meeting were reviewed. Davidson made a **motion** to approve the minutes. Austin seconded and the motion carried.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION:

Anne Wallace presented an overview of the Cumberland Avenue Corridor Project, explaining that, while the project has been going on for the last few years (in the news, etc.) the original plan to reduce the width of Cumberland was first discussed in 1980. The purpose for the "road diet" is to increase the opportunity for pedestrians to get around, as well as make it easier to turn on/off of Cumberland into area businesses.

Two questions came up regarding accessibility. One was about how the street furniture will be placed so that it won't be an obstacle course for pedestrians, to which the answer is "The sidewalk will be eight feet wide, with a six foot wide furniture zone." This should offer pedestrians plenty of room to navigate without conflicting with furniture. Another question was about the use of pavers on sidewalks, to which the answer is "Pavers are not in the actual pedestrian zone."

Brent Hemsley gave an overview of the Autism Achievement Academy that he and his wife Jaime started. The Academy is intended to be a school for children with autism where the teachers are specially trained in the most effective ways to work with children who have autism so that they can learn. The Academy is a 501-c-3 and has an active Board of twelve individuals dedicated to its success. Right now, the biggest need is a space for the Academy. Both Hunter and Sawhney offered suggestions about possible space for the Academy.

Transportation Committee:

- No report.

Disability-Friendly City Committee:

- Sawhney gave the report
- Draft survey compiled from initial CODI input was distributed for feedback
- Members were asked to review the survey and provide suggestions on additions or changes needed
- Cook will send the report electronically for membership perusal
- Once the survey is agreeable to the membership, CODI will determine the best way to move forward

Bylaws Committee:

- Allan gave the report, going over each of the issues that the committee was charged with reviewing (meeting schedule, proxy/alternate attendance, ex-officio status and number of committees one can chair)
- Meeting schedule—currently, meetings are held bi-monthly which seems to work well for most and since special-called meetings are an option, the committee recommends no change.
- Proxy/Alternates attending in a members' stead—given that individual members are appointed by the Mayor, the committee believes that it is not appropriate for “stand ins” to attend for an appointed member, and therefore recommends no change.
- Ex-officio status of a member (clarification)—Chair Lemak is an ex-officio member of all committees, by virtue of being the Chair.
- The Executive Committee is not a “Standing Committee” so Lemak is not considered to be chairing more than one committee.

Disability Sensitivity/Awareness Committee:

- Davidson related notes from the meeting in Moore's absence
- There was not a quorum, so the committee collected ideas and intends to vote at the next committee meeting
- Printed materials are needed for use at events or meetings to show what CODI is and does for the community
- CODI name tags that are issued by PBA for parking and building access are sufficient; no need to create a new one.
- Website—CODI site needs links on it to the area service providing agencies that are represented by CODI members (at a minimum). Disability Etiquette and Awareness links need to be added as well as links to Myths/Facts about People with Disabilities
- Facebook—explore the possibility of this social media outlet to interact with the community

Employment Committee:

- Johnson gave the report
- Committee has determined that the tapings that will be created for 2016 would be most effective if taped “on site” at the employers’. Goodwill staff have been trained by CTV to go into the field and Johnson will see if that staffer can assist CODI with their on-site tapings
- Committee reached out to the Knoxville Area Employment Consortium (KAEC) and is set to be on their November agenda to discuss how to partner with CODI
- Creation of a “flip-card” with information for employees on one side and information for employers on the other side is needed. This will be a great educational tool
- Designing a sticker that can be placed in a window of a company to show its support for the employment of people with disabilities is another goal of the committee

November Taping—Lemak and Brookshire will reach out to speakers who can provide information on the topic of “Resources available for families—TEIS/H & V Deafness 0-3”

Announcements:

- Belk event sale on November 7th to benefit charity—need tickets, see Angela (Hunter)
- Envisions Art gallery will be featuring Derrick Freeman’s Christmas collection in November. Everyone is encouraged to attend. (Hunter)
- ETTAC is in need of toys to adapt. If you can donate, please do so in the next week or two. (Payne)
- ETTAC is in need of a new Executive Director, as Patrick Bowen is moving out of state. If aware of any candidates, please direct them to ETTAC (Payne)

Public Forum: None

Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 9 at 4pm in the Small Assembly Room.

With no further business, Johnson adjourned the meeting a 5:33pm

Respectfully submitted by: Stephanie Cook, Staff Liaison