

Mayor's Council on Disability Issues
May 12, 2021 @ 4:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

Agenda

- I. **Call to order** 4:06 pm

- II. **Roll call -**
Present: Byrne, Cook, Davidson, Houston, Huang, Mull, Orr, Rodgers, Shilling, Simmons, Spangler, Upton, VanDyke, Welch
Absent: Colebrooke, Foutch, Loebner, Neely, Shipley
Guest: Regis Borsari

- III. **Approval of April Minutes** - Mull made a Motion to approve the March meeting minutes. Houston seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion passed.

- IV. **New Member Voting** - Davidson went over the process the membership committee implemented to review the nominees. Davidson explained what an alternate nominee would entail – that if at any time a membership spot opens during the year, or we get to the next fiscal year and we have spots open, the alternate would be considered first before other nominees are considered. All votes for new member nominees, second terms, and officer positions passed unanimously based on individual voice votes of members present.

- V. **Committee Reports**
Bylaws Committee:
Did not meet

Transportation Committee:
Did not meet

Membership Committee:

- There were fourteen CODI Nominations. Then the membership committee took an initial vote to narrow it down to nine candidates and one alternate position. The membership committee came up with a set of interview questions for each nominee to answer and send back prior to the interview. The nine nominations and one alternate were presented before the CODI body and members voted, all nominations and the alternate passed unanimously.
- New Member Nominees are: Daniel Alexander, John Barber, Andrea Briggs, George Childress, Dennis Landfather, Karen Lowe, Eric Moore, Will NeSmith, and Jessica Villanueva.
- Alternate Nominee is: Hank Jenkins.
- Members up for second terms are: Monica Orr and Laykoon Huang.
- Officer Nominations are: Melissa VanDyke for Chair, Monica Orr for Vice-Chair, and Conya Mull for Secretary.

Community Engagement Committee:

- Community Engagement Committee reported that they have updated the CODI article verbiage for newsletters and submitted it to Elder News and Views, VAT, and Office of Neighborhoods. The deadline had passed for the newsletter to be included in the Elder News and Views. This month is Older Americans Month, and we have dropped off rack cards for distribution for a drive through event that O'Connor Senior Center is having.
- We have planned for a speaker from Cherokee Health to present to CODI next month on mental health. Cook and VanDyke met with them on Monday to go over their presentation format to ensure they are inclusive in their language to include persons with disabilities and also how COVID has impacted our disability communities.
- Orr announced that every first Wednesday of May is National Interpreter Appreciation Day and she wanted to thank all our wonderful interpreters for

all that they do, especially this past month with as many interviews they did, thank you!

- CODI Rack Cards were created years ago to help educate the community about CODI. Currently the meeting information is dated and pertains to pre-COVID meetings, so the committee will be working on editing them in order to post to the CODI website and get printed.
- Developing business cards was discussed with focus on ensuring that they would be more functional for distribution and let people know about CODI and how they can get involved. Cook will be meeting with city graphic designer Dan Frye in the coming weeks to get a first draft of the options we are looking at. Options are a double folded business card or a trifold depending on what is available, and cost involved.

VI. Strategic Plan Reports

Livability Committee:

The livability Committee met and discussed how to distribute the CODI Accessibility Checklist to area businesses. The following ideals were discussed:

- Reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce, Josh Loebner has volunteered to reach out to his Chamber connections to see if we can come and present CODI at one of their monthly business meetings. It was also discussed asking someone from the Chamber to come and provide us with their thoughts at our June CODI meeting. It was also recommended to reach out to Michael Hummle, who is heavily connected with the CBID (Central Business Improvement District).
- Reach out to the Better Business Bureau, Rotary Clubs, and the Knoxville News Sentinel.

- Possibly developing a “Cling” for business that agree to the CODI Accessibility Checklist saying “CODI Disability Friendly Business” that would include the CODI website or QR Code.
- Discussed creating a “Postcard” for Livability promoting the CODI Accessibility Checklist. Possibly adding the acronyms for CODI and the QR Code in Braille.
- Discussed the possibility of creating Tri or Bi fold business cards for Community Engagement to hand out to businesses with the link to CODI on it and/or a QR Code.
- Angie Davidson has taken on the responsibility of updating the CODI Rack Cards.
- Josh Loebner provided the Livability Committee with a phone app called AIRA. It’s an app that can provide the visually impaired with information from highly trained agents anytime and anywhere.

COVID-19 Committee:

Did not meet this month

Universal Design Committee:

- Discussion regarding the presentation Jim Tente gave – between now and the next Universal Design meeting we will have the ability to get more information from him.
- Discussed what kind of amenities for multi-family housing would we like for the city to request/require if the city is funding this. Next Steps: Get the difference between type A, type B, type C units onto a one-page sheet. Get clarification on what plans and inspections department is already looking for and what they are doing, then the committee can make suggestions. Walk in shower is not accessible, roll in shower is, so it may be good to work with KCDC on this and encourage or incentivize them to

leave the bathtub out of X percent of units but we will need to get in on the initial planning process in order to make this recommendation. We will also get more information on Universal Design from Joel's use of the transportation system of KAT.

- Bob Goodall Construction founded Goodall homes, Cook recommended if he is going to be coming to Knoxville he would be a great person to invite to the Universal Design Committee.
- Many seniors want to move downtown for ease of access, and would be more inclined to purchase if it was ready for the day when they need accessible options.
- Superior Van and Mobility is the only place to rent accessible vehicles in Knoxville.

VII. New Business

- Doodle Poll sent out at Melissa's request and majority approved VanDyke speaking to City Council. Melissa VanDyke will be speaking before the City Council Meeting advocating for the CODI budget on Friday May 14, 2021 at 5:00pm in the main assembly room
- May 20th the Executive Committee is meeting with Mayor Kincannon. If you have topics you would like to have discussed, please send to Melissa VanDyke.
- VanDyke will be adding to the agenda a 5 minute item for individuals who want to address CODI to discuss or address any issues or resources.

VIII. Announcements and Public Forum

- Regis Borsari - has been doing lots of Zoom meetings lately and is very happy she can participate, would recommend going to hybrid in person and zoom rather than just in person.

IX. Adjourn at 4:56pm

Upcoming Meetings/Reminders:

June 9, 2021

July 14, 2021

August 11, 2021

September 8, 2021

October 13, 2021

November 10, 2021

December 8, 2021

This meeting and all communications between members is subject to the provisions of the Tennessee Open Meetings Act, TENN. CODE ANN. § 8-44-101, et seq.