

Mayor's Council on Disability Issues (CODI)
August 14, 2015 Retreat Minutes
Disability Resource Center

Chair Lemak called the meeting to order at 9:27 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allan, Austin, Booher, Brookshire, Davidson, Dockery, Getino, Hector, Hunter, Johnson, Lemak, Moore, Neely, Newman, North, Payne, Sawhney, Secrest, Shilling and Shipley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jones

GUESTS: Liliana Burbano, Knox County Health Department

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION:

June Minutes: A motion to approve the June 10th minutes was made by Dockery and seconded by Austin – motion carried

Lemak led the members in an icebreaker, where members paired up and exchanged information and later shared with the group what they learned about each other.

Year in Review: Cook went over the year in review. *See handout

City Departments & CODI Involvement: Cook distributed a copy and reviewed the City of Knoxville's Organizational Chart. CODI regularly interacts with Engineering (sidewalks, curb cuts, pedestrian safety issues, etc.), KAT, Parks & Recreation, Public Service, and Building Inspections. Cook is in the Disability Services Office which is located in the Department of Community Development, which rolls up under the Chief Policy Officer.

Moore expressed interest in learning more about the Cumberland Avenue and South Waterfront projects, given CODI's success in the past with providing input on accessibility of design in public spaces and making them more user-friendly for all. Cook will follow up with the Office of Redevelopment to schedule.

Committees—Makeup, Overview & Special Committees:

By-laws Committee: Reviews bylaws and recommend revisions, as needed.

Chair: Allan

Members: Brookshire, Getino, Johnson, North

Topics to explore: Creation of "Alternate" or "Proxy" to attend meetings when member is unavailable, so that members aren't penalized for missing; considering changing bylaws to read that meetings can be monthly, and the number of tapings is flexible; determining possibility of ex-officio membership status. These matters will be discussed

and vetted with City Law and compared to other City boards/councils to determine feasibility.

Transportation Committee: Makes recommendations regarding improvement of city transportation for people with disabilities; one member serves on KAT Community Advisory Committee (KAT CAC)

Co-Chairs: Booher, Hector

Members: Brookshire, Johnson, Moore, Payne and Secrest

Topics to remain on radar: Downtown accessible parking study (survey and maps were distributed); considering meeting schedules coinciding with bus schedules; accessible taxi possibilities; "Uber"

Nominating Committee: Identifies and recruits nominees to represent various disability interests, professionals, persons with disabilities, family members, age ranges, etc. Nominations are finalized in April and the membership votes in June.

Chair: Lemak

Members: Austin, Dockery, Jones

Disability Sensitivity Committee: This group will identify ways to educate the public, Administration and City departments on disability issues. Raise awareness through marketing and communications

Chair: Moore

Members: Davidson, Hunter, Neely, Newman

Executive Committee:

Chair: Craig Lemak

Vice-Chair: Meaghan Johnson

Secretary: Whitney North

City Liaison: Stephanie Brewer Cook

Ad Hoc/Special Committees:

After discussion about the need for additional special committees, Dockery made a **motion** to create the Employment Committee, Hunter seconded - motion carried. Allan made a **motion** to create a Disability Friendly City Committee, Getino seconded - motion carried.

Disability Friendly City Committee

Chair: Sawhney

Members: Davidson, Getino, Shilling, Secrest and Shipley

Employment Committee

Chair: Johnson

Members: Hunter, Brookshire

Committees broke out for brief meetings

Committee Reports:

By-Laws Committee: Will look into the number of CODI meetings, number of tapings, see how other City boards do it, consider ex-officio voting, meet with Law department to make sure we're in compliance with the public notice laws and other laws.

Transportation: Would like to look into the possibility of scheduling CODI meeting around bus schedules

Nominating: No report

Disability Sensitivity: Will strive to develop training tapings for first responders to post on CODI website, create materials to be used at CODI booth for fairs and events, create a card with CODI background and general info as well as disability etiquette.

There was a great discussion on disability sensitivity and using person-first language. Cook reminded everyone the importance of understanding that not every person with a disability is comfortable discussing it and that it is not automatically a stranger's business to inquire.

Disability Friendly City: Goal is to define what it means to be a disability friendly city. Will create a survey to develop a guide for action, identify gaps in services, and put survey on city's website

Employment: Goals – work with the Knoxville Area Employment Consortium (KAEC), create video series with employees and employers, work with Disability Rights TN to create handout, help employees learn how to self-advocate, help employers be proactive, and encourage the use of technology in the workplace.

The committee proposed to spearhead at least four taping topics in 2016--all on the subject of employment. Given that Mayor Rogero recently spoke to attendees of the KAEC-sponsored "Community Conversation" about the need to focus efforts on the employment of people with disabilities, focusing the taping topics on meaningful employment is timely and a very "hot topic".

Taping Topics 2016

“Who is CODI” The Executive Committee to determine date and materials to use (most likely very similar to the presentation at 30th Anniversary Celebration)

Employment Series (4 tapings) The Employment Committee will determine which topics to cover for the 2016 taping year.

Secrest made a **motion** to reduce the number of tapings to 4, (by-laws do not designate how many) and increase the number of regular meetings from 6 to 8. Alan commented that the Bylaws Committee will be reviewing this. Getino commented that we could change language to say “minimum” of bimonthly meetings. Extra meetings can always be held by calling special meetings. Secrest withdrew the motion. Bylaws committee to discuss and make recommendation.

Given the momentum from today’s retreat and the great work to be done, Brookshire made a motion to hold a special called regular business meeting on September 9 at 4pm; Getino seconded – motion carried.

Executive Committee to meet and determine what content to include for the “What is CODI?” taping. Taping can be done at CTV studio.

Projects for 2016:

Livability Summit November 12: This event will combine the Accessibility Symposium, Office on Aging’s “Aging: A Family Affair” event, and TN Commission on Aging’s & Disability statewide series of “Livability Summits” which came out of the Governor’s Task Force on Aging. The Summit will be held at Rothchild’s on Kingston Pike. There are opportunities for exhibitors and all are encouraged to attend!

Downtown Parking Study (as part of the Transportation Committee): Goal is to identify accessibility problems in city-owned parking facilities downtown. Secrest distributed maps and discussed the desired outcome of the study. Members may survey garages at their convenience.

Disability Friendly City: Committee will put together a questionnaire to send to membership, to gauge initial thoughts on what makes a city “disability friendly.”

Neely made a motion to adjourn at 2:37pm, Hunter seconded and the motion carried. Being no further business, Lemak adjourned the meeting at 2:37pm.

Respectfully submitted by Whitney North and Stephanie Cook