

Mayor's Council on Disability Issues
July 14, 2021 @ 4:00 PM
Small Assembly Room, City County Building

I. **Call to order** – 4:07p.m.

II. **Roll call**

Present: Alexander, Barber, Briggs, Byrne, Childress, Colebrooke, Cook, Houston, Huang, Landfather, Lowe, Moore, Mull, Rodgers, Simmons, Spangler, VanDyke, Villanueva, and Welch

Absent: Foutch, Loebner, NeSmith, Orr

Guests: Russ Jensen (My Knoxville App), Lydia Weeks (Catalyst Sports)

III. **Approval of June Minutes** Simmons made a Motion to approve the June meeting minutes. Welch seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion passed

IV. **“My Knoxville” App Overview (15 minutes, Russ Jensen)**

Topic: 311, 211, and “My Knoxville” App

Mr. Jensen presented information regarding the use of the 311 & 211 services and the My Knoxville App. On the My Knoxville App you can report potholes, vandalism, or anything else that needs attention, which includes the ability to send a picture when reporting. You can also find links to “things to do,” get information about parking and public transit, and job listings. Mr. Jensen reported 96% of the country is covered under the 211 service. Knoxville was the 8th city to go live with 311. Mayor Kincannon was a huge catalyst for the My Knoxville App being created. The app went live on March 11, 2021 with over 500 individuals creating an account and 400 service requests have already been submitted. The app also has Accessibility Features.

- *Visual features include:*

High Contrast Color

Color Features for users who may be colorblind

- *Physical Ability features include:*

Large easy to press buttons and links

Configurable size of buttons (for those who may not be able to easily manipulate their hands/fingers)

- *Hearing features include:*

Captions/text for Video/Audio (No video or Audio is built into the app, this would be maintained on the pages the links direct you to)

- *Cognitive Ability features include:*

Text to Speech

Use of simple short sentences

Guest Speaker: Lydia Weeks

Topic: Catalyst Sports

Lydia Weeks presented information on Catalyst Sports. Catalyst Sports' mission is to be a supportive and inclusive community. Catalyst has adaptive equipment for Rock Climbing, Biking (Fall and Spring focus, but year-round) and Paddle Boating. If a person is interested in registering for a sport, they can do so online. Individuals can also sign up for monthly emails and follow them on Facebook. There are no age restrictions to participate in Catalyst Sports. Catalyst Sports has worked with Patricia Neal to make their Kayaks accessible, and with River Sports on adaptability. Catalyst also partnered with Legacy Park and was able to get an adaptive trail built. There is a \$5.00 fee per event. For those interested in Rock Climbing it occurs from 10:00am – 12:00pm on the first Saturday each month. Paddling is from 6:00pm – 8:00pm the 2nd and 3rd Saturdays each month with 6 adaptable kayaks. All the boats are housed at the Cove. Biking is on the 4th Saturday of each month at Sharp's Ridge. Catalyst is looking at the potential of renting out their adaptable equipment, but nothing has transpired yet. CODI suggested offering something like this in the Urban Wilderness. Catalyst reported they currently have enough volunteers right now, and a program coordinator would

need to be present, they would need additional accessible equipment including accessible kayaks in order to do so.

V. New Member Introductions

The following new CODI members introduced themselves and spoke a little about why they are interested in CODI. New members present: Daniel Alexander, John Barber, Andrea Briggs, George Childress, Dennis Landfather, Karen Lowe, Eric Moore, Jessica Villanueva

VI. Sunshine Law and Bylaws

Annazette Houston made a motion to revise the bylaws to remove “***and city council***” from the bylaws. Kendrise Colebrook seconded, and the motion passed.

VII. Member Advocacy and Information (5 minutes)

Eric Moore mentioned his safety concern for pedestrians regarding the “Scooters” especially around the UT Campus area.

VIII. Committee Reports

Bylaws Committee: Did not meet

Transportation Committee: Did not meet

Membership Committee: Did not meet

Community Engagement Committee:

The Community Engagement Committee met, and discussed the following past and current items with the new CODI members present:

- A CODI retractable banner (once budget permits)
- Committee members do not have to be CODI Members
- Talks regarding Radio Marketing and how CODI can receive a discounted blurb on radio stations and newspapers

- The Committee is currently working on Parking PSAs to air on CTV
- Alexander reported on an inclusive Softball League. There were 6 teams in the previous season (40 individuals with disabilities) this would provide CODI an opportunity to set up an informational booth.
Discussion regarding a CODI Appreciation Season Closer – with awards, punch, cookies, music, etc....for CoK inclusive sports
- The development of a generic CODI email address
- Creating business cards and updating the rack cards. Dan is still working with City Communications on the development of the business cards.
- Discussed looking at “Monthly” celebrations (Autism Awareness Month, Brain Injury Month, CP Awareness month, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Older Americans Month, etc.)
- Have speakers pertaining to the monthly topic and use social media outlets to focus on areas.
- Invite a member from the Community Engagement Committee to participate with the Livability Committee as a liaison of what is happening and what is needed.
- Doing member highlights on Facebook
- Share CODI meeting agenda with Mayor Kincannon and Communications to encourage more involvement.
- Creation of magnets for community events promoting CODI

IX. Strategic Plan Reports

Livability Committee: Did not meet

COVID-19 Committee: Did not meet

Universal Design Committee:

The Universal Design Committee met, and the following was discussed:

- Design of building or products or environments to make them accessible

- Have a collective meeting with building contractors discussing how to do accessibility on the front end (cheaper) rather than doing accessibility modification after it is built.
- The Planning Commission is currently made up of contractors and developers. Propose to the city a change to make more inclusive who can be on the planning commission – only “X” percent can be contractors, builders, developers
- The difficulty in rehabbing a prefab home.
- Work with AARP to get the information on what makes an accessible home out to their subscribers
- Holding a Financial Class to learn how to buy a home for the first time – could give them information to educate the ones that come to them.

X. New Business

KCDC Resource Fair Sign Ups – A sign up sheet was provided for those interested in participating in the KCDC Resource Fair.

XI. Announcements None

XII. Public Forum None

XIII. Adjourn Dismissed at 6:10p.m.

Upcoming Meetings/Reminders:

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. 3714