

Knoxville Mayor's Council on Disability Issues

August 15, 2022, Meeting Minutes

In-Person Retreat, Room 461, City County Building

I. Meeting called to order at 9:24 a.m.

II. Roll Call:

Members: Alexander, Barber, Briggs, Childress, Colebrooke, Cox, Jenkins, Landfather, Lowe, Maxwell, Mull, NeSmith, Ross, Shimmin-Orr, Saxton, Simmons, Spangler, Villanueva, Welch

City of Knoxville Staff: Cook, Dziubak

Present: Alexander, Barber, Jenkins, Landfather, Lowe, Maxwell, Mull, NeSmith, Ross, Shimmin-Orr, Simmons, Spangler, Villanueva, Welch

Absent: Briggs, Childress, Colebrooke, Cox, Saxton

Guests: Carly Pearson

Interpreters: David Peach and Stephanie Peach

III. Approval of July Minutes:

Simmons made the first motion, Barber seconded the motion, motion carried.

IV. Housekeeping:

- Landfather posed the question “what does CODI do” to all members at the retreat. Answers included:
 - Helping to resolve issues.
 - Getting the community involved and recommending changes the city can make.
 - CODI is an advisory body that helps counsel the mayor on things such as livability and transportation.
- Landfather would like CODI to have a goal of rewriting the mission statement to empower the group and reminded everyone that CODI can be even better than it is now if we all do our part and stay engaged. Spangler suggested coming up with an elevator speech for when members come across others who may be interested in CODI.

- The newly elected Executive Committee introduced themselves: Landfather (chair), Barber (vice-chair), and Lowe (secretary).
- Dziubak discussed participation as a whole and reminded members that we can institute a hiatus for any member if needed.
- Carly Pearson introduced herself as the ADA Coordinator for Knox County.

V. Knoxville Area Transit Update (Maxwell)

- Maxwell discussed the comprehensive analysis and 5 phases of KAT reimagined:
 - They are done with the 1st phase of discovery and alternatives.
 - The 2nd phase involves public meetings and engagement with the community.
 - KAT is responding with 70% ridership and 30% coverage area.
 - The 3rd phase is the design part.
 - The 4th phase is developing a rough draft and working with city engineers.
- Cook asked about prior data and discussed the changes in the city/county.
- Lowe asked where the public meetings are held.
- Pearson said that the meetings try to be as accessible as possible and can coordinate with Cook if needed.
- Mull asked about stakeholder meetings.
- Spangler asked if there were specific route changes.
 - Maxwell responded with yes, some routes will stop in August or have more or less times of pickups/drop offs.
- Pearson asked if they are looking at newly accessible locations and stops
 - Maxwell responded with possibly.

VI. Livability's Accessibility Survey Presentation

- Mull presented Livability Committee's PowerPoint training on the Accessibility Checklist. Items discussed included:
 - Ice breakers.
 - Statistical data of spending power of the disability community.
 - The law regarding parking accessibility.
 - Items members administering the checklist will need to have with them.
- The following questions/comments came up:
 - Welch inquired if CODI could we include some statistical data on the Rack cards. Dziubak responded that with the amount of CODI rack cards and the z-fold business cards that are still in process of being handed out it would be best to utilize those first before spending more money on

printing. Cook suggested that cardstock be used to print off a small amount of statistical data in office for the Accessibility Checklist.

- Barber suggested that checklist volunteers need to emphasize to businesses that CODI is not selling or fundraising, and that the accessible checklist is completely voluntary and free to them.
- Spangler said we need to show that it will help the business.
- Ross asked about the Rack codes and said that he can do the QR codes.
- Landfather commented that a number of businesses are discouraging the disabled consumers by the way they are setup and general atmosphere.
- Pearson asked if this is based on ADA compliance, as that could be overwhelming.
 - Dziubak said while it is based on ADA it is to simply show that the business is disability friendly and not whether they are fully compliant.
- Welch asked if we will be presenting to motels/hotels.
 - Dziubak said we are focusing on restaurants and local retail downtown first and could consider that in the future, but it would require a different type of checklist since the one we currently have does not take into consideration items like bed height and walk in showers.
- Ross asked if the business is disability friendly, could they tie that in with their marketing.
 - Dziubak replied that they could as they would already be listed on the CODI website as disability friendly and will receive both a window cling as well as a jpeg to include on their website, etc.
- Welch asked about doing a CODI meeting at a local business/restaurant.
 - Mull said that the Livability committee is going to try and start doing some initial test runs to see if there are any issues with current iteration.

VII. Committee Breakout Reports:

Bylaws:

- Elected Nesmith to be the Chairperson, Lowe took notes because Secretary Alexander was not yet present.
- Reviewed what the prior Bylaws group was working on as none of the current members were on the committee when those changes were suggested and submitted to Law.
- Adding the words “seniors” and “veterans”, and possibly adding “families and caregivers”, was discussed as well as possible formatting changes.

- The group will review current proposed changes individually, then regroup to codify changes within 3 months by resubmission to Law and City Council.

Membership:

- No minutes reported.

Transportation:

- Purpose of committee is to:
 - Stay up to date and involved in changes in transportation, such as sidewalks, curbs, and greyhound buses.
 - Help assure transportation is accessible and available to everyone regardless of disabilities.
- Focuses for 2022-2024 include:
 - Availability and accessibility of public transportation.
 - Keeping current on KAT updates to ensure accessible considerations are being made.
 - Looking into whether there is an accessible mode of transportation to get to different points within the county and if there a population that would use it.
 - CAC Transit and ETHRA provide accessible transportation within and throughout the County.
 - Infrastructure for the future?
 - Public Awareness
- Long-term goals include:
 - Ensuring citywide sidewalks and curb cuts are in good working order.
 - Ensuring easily Accessible Transportation.
 - Making Knoxville recognizable as an accessibility-friendly city.
 - Disseminate information about needs of disability community to the community, Knox County, and City of Knoxville.

VIII. Strategic Plan Breakout Reports:

Livability:

- Purpose:
 - Bring awareness of accessibility to all people and bring awareness specifically to people with a disability in the community.

- To bring awareness to businesses and the people of Knoxville by providing strategies of livability and visitability.
- Help ensure people with disabilities are able to fully engage services that are available to the general population.
- Main Focus 2022-2024
 - Develop strategies to implement checklist.
 - Find places that we are familiar with to complete accessibility checklist trial runs and turn in report to the group at monthly meetings.
 - Encourage full group participation and involvement in committee meetings.
 - Gather input and complete Chamber blast email draft.
 - Send information on the accessibility checklist to DRC, CAC, and AARP for inclusion in their newsletters.
- Short-Term Goals
 - Complete 5-10 business accessibility checklists by 1-1-2023.
 - Begin to visit businesses committee members are familiar with.
- Long-Term Goals
 - Complete all revisions to checklist.
 - Complete checklist in accessible digital format.
- Next Step To Reach Goals
 - Complete practice runs with businesses we know.
 - Revisit checklist to see if it is meeting needs.

Universal Design:

- Purpose of the Committee:
 - To create awareness for the need in Knoxville and attempt to change codes for housing to create more accessibility for Universal Design (UD) housing. This is not necessarily to educate builders on what UD is, but to provide the data to support the argument on the benefits for those changes.
- Main focus of group for 2022-2024:
 - Target builders on single-family housing codes and change codes to allow aging in place, and create more affordable and accessible housing.
 - The goal is to work on codes first, then builders second, as the builders are benefiting from the current state of the market.
- Long term goals:

- Make accessible housing in apartment facilities a priority. (Offer more than minimum requirement.)
- Increase the percentage of accessible housing options by requiring type-C dwelling units.
- Short Term Goals:
 - Dinner and design in spring 2023 to present to builders and make a case for why minimally visitable units are an important cause.
 - Change code requirements to have builders to meet the need for visitable type-C dwelling units.
 - Affordable/accessible housing (this also targets the homeless population).
 - Tweak presentation that we currently have on why utilize visitable type-c units to show the need/cost.
 - Obtain testimonials from residents and their firsthand experiences on how they are impacted.
- Next steps to reach goals:
 - Make contact with codes dept. to provide needed statistics.
 - Assign CODI members to complete the presentation in sections.
- Impact on overall strategic plan:
 - More people can age in place.
 - Less people with a disability in nursing homes.
 - Create more independence.
- Future implications:
 - Bring in more revenue for the city because more people will be able to stay here and would not have to move to another, more accessible city, or move in with family members that are elsewhere.

IX. Community Engagement Breakout Report:

- No minutes reported.

X. Current Strategic Plan/ New Strategic Plan '22-'24:

- Landfather went through the handout of the current strategic plan.
 - Members discussed the need to go over the ADA Transition Plan, and decided that the November 9, 2022, meeting will be in person from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the City County Building.
 - Members will go over the plan during the November meeting, then will regroup and have another retreat in person in February to discuss the ADA Transition Plan and Strategic Plan at that point.

XI. Announcements and Public Forum

- No announcements reported
- No public forum speakers

XII. Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Karen Lowe, Secretary, and Misha Dziubak, City Liaison

Upcoming 2022 Meetings/Reminders:

September 14 – Hour long presentation by Disability Rights TN

October 12 – Regular Meeting

November 9 – 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in room 575 to go over ADA Transition Plan

December 14 – Regular Meeting