

Mayor's Council on Disability Issues

January 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

Agenda

I. Meeting called to order at 4:03pm

II. Roll call:

Members: Alexander, Barber, Childress, Colebrook, Cox, Jenkins, Landfather, Lowe, Maxwell, Mull, Nesmith, Shimmin-Orr, Ross, Simmons, Spangler, Villanueva, Welch

City of Knoxville Staff: Cook, Dziubak

Present: Alexander, Barber, Childress, Landfather, Lowe, Maxwell, Nesmith, Shimmin-Orr, Simmons, Villanueva, Welch

Absent: Colebrook, Cox, Jenkins, Mull, Ross, Spangler

Guests: Melissa VanDyke, Rose Shelor

Interpreter: Amber Reis, Monique Johnson

III. Approval of December Minutes

Simmons motioned to approve December minutes, Barber seconded, none opposed, motion carried.

IV. New Business: New Member Nominations

- Shimmin-Orr named four candidates recommended for immediate membership, and Dziubak went through a bit of information about them and the two runners up:
 - Nancy Carter — 22 years' experience with the visually impaired disability population, certified JAWS instructor with SPARK.
 - Logan Black — 12 years' experience in Autism and Asperger's, works as Operations Manager at Metropolis TN.
 - Paul Robertson Jr. — Over 25 years' experience working representing those who are deaf or have experienced a stroke.
 - Christopher Mathison — 3 years' experience working with disabled veterans' outreach, and a wounded veteran himself.
- Runners Up:
 - Ashley Wells Ajinkya — 5 years' experience with mental illness, the blind, and those with visual disabilities.
 - Hillary Brooks — 11 years' experience with intellectual disability, works with the Sertoma Center.

- Cook explained that the vote for the 4 candidates for immediate membership, they will be presented to the mayor. Then if there is a resignation the 2 runners up will be considered for placement on CODI.
 - Vote taken individually from each CODI member. Present members of CODI unanimously voted “yes” for the 4 immediate candidates and 2 runners up.

V. Member Advocacy & Information

- Simmons asked what the purpose of this part of the meeting is.
 - Dziubak explained this is a time for advocacy of any disability information the CODI body wants to share amongst all members.
- Barber shared that the Joni and Friends retreats for volunteers and families will be open next week for two retreats this year.
 - Dziubak asked Barber to send out an email to the complete CODI body.
- VanDyke mentioned that the Regal Cinema at Turkey Creek and that the accessible stall for the restroom is at the far end of about 10 stalls and is that really the best placement.
 - Cook explains different schools of thought, one is putting them farther away prevents people without a disability from using them, and another is that if it is a renovation, putting them at the end is easier though there is concern about distance if someone uses a rollator. With new construction considering better disbursement is best.
- Simmons explained the issues he had with the weight of the bathroom door at Jaboni’s pizza on Kingston Pike and offered to do an Accessibility survey there.
 - Dziubak mentioned that he should take Lowe, Jenkins, or Mull if he is wanting to do the Accessibility Checklist.
 - Landfather mentioned that the weight of a door should be no more than 5 psi.
- Cook reported that she can let the Property Maintenance department know about issues found within the City of Knoxville, and that they can go out and inspect as the city has a process to deal with them.
 - Van Dyke says that this conversation is why this is an important part of the meetings.

VI. Committee Reports

- **ByLaws—Nesmith presented**
 - Met on November 7, 2022
 - Went through all prior recommended changes:
 - The committee went through each section of the Bylaws and reworded a few things and elected to take out all references to Community Engagement as the regular CODI body should all be participating in Community Engagement.
 - NeSmith will present changes to the CODI body at the December meeting.
 - CODI body will vote on changes at the February retreat.
- **Membership —**
 - Met on November 1, 2022, December 19, 2022, and December 29, 2022.
 - Member Nominee interviews were held on:

- December 20, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
 - December 21, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.
 - December 28, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.
 - Date to close this round of nominations was November 14th, other nominations may be received up until March 8, 2023.
 - Current membership includes nine people with disabilities, and eight people without disabilities. CODI currently has four vacancies to fill.
 - All nominees will be interviewed and given a list of potential questions that they will be asked during the interview.
 - All interviews will last approximately 30 minutes and take place via Zoom, Membership committee will then have fifteen minutes at the end of each interview to discuss the candidate.
- **Transportation—Welch presented**
 - Met on November 7, 2022, December 12, 2022, and January 10, 2023:
 - CAC Transit is hiring drivers and has started charging fares beginning on January 3, 2023.
 - Volunteer Assisted Transportation is available with more one-on-one assistance to seniors and people with disabilities in Knox County.
 - Maxwell reported that KAT Reimagined is working on a call-in system for after-hours needs.
 - KAT is working with the McGhee Tyson Airport and are working towards offering a shuttle.
 - The Greyhound bus system is looking at new drop off point possibly at Knoxville College.
 - Maxwell announced that KAT Re-Imagined is currently bringing on new board members and is wanting to get two people from the City to sit on the board.
 - Simmons was elected to the board of Knoxville Transportation Authority (KTA), which was announced at the December meeting.
 - Maxwell let members know that KAT is currently hiring for several positions.
 - Cook is going to try and get the City's sidewalk plan to share at the next Transportation meeting on February 6, 2023.
 - Also mentioned was the possibility of a pedestrian bridge, ride sharing opportunities in Knoxville, and towing availability for disabled drivers.
 - Cook looked into the availability of tow trucks for disabled drivers that are stranded and that they will help provide an accessible ride, and this is a viable option but not shared publicly.
 - Simmons shared that he has been allowed to stay in his van while it was being towed.
 - Cook shared a pdf of a "lay-person's" understanding of the various accessible transportation options in Knoxville.

- There is not an update regarding the new Greyhound bus stop as the issues of shelter and restroom availability is still a concern.
- **Community Engagement—Barber presented**
 - Met on December 14, 2022, and January 11, 2023:
 - It was a small group just before the main meeting, several items were discussed including helping Livability with the Accessibility survey, and member attendance.
 - Community Engagement will meet as a group at the February retreat.
- **Livability Strategic Plan Group—Lowe presented**
 - Met on November 8, 2022, December 8, 2022, and January 5, 2023:
 - Discussed the intangibles that are hard to put a number to but if a location is disability friendly overall how we should rate them, Lowe suggested removing the question about AED's completely, Mull made a motion and Landfather seconded the motion, all agreed to remove that question.
 - Cook pointed out that we can certainly tweak things regarding the checklist, but that means Dziubak will have to rework the digital version of the checklist and that we have 2 tablets available.
 - Mull sent out the checklist again to all CODI members and will ask about any changes at the January meeting where the checklist will be finalized, and during the February meeting we will propose dates in the Spring for folks to start participating in the checklist as the holidays are just to hectic.
 - Cook mentioned that the DRC-Project Access Knoxville had a checklist at one point that they conducted with businesses and Cook will try to get a copy of that so we can see how they score things.
 - Mull showed a reformatted checklist, and the group went through the questions to remove one and update the scoring system.
 - Livability would like to complete more checklists before the February retreat.
- **Universal Design Strategic Group—Simmons presented**
 - Met on November 8, 2022, December 13, 2022, and January 10, 2023:
 - Simmons reported on John Cook who is with the Greater Homebuilders Association of Knoxville, and he shared that though they are not going with full universal design they are incorporating aspects, such as ground floor master bedrooms and accessible bathrooms. They will be at the Dogwood Arts Home and Garden show coming up and Simmons is going to get a brochure about aging in place and making the house more accessible.

V. New Business

- Cook asked if we needed to do a motion to approve the ADA Transition Plans.
 - Dziubak reported that there was no quorum, so it will carry over to the February retreat.

- Dziubak shared that the Executive Committee is meeting with the Mayor on February 8th, and the meeting regarding visitable type C buildings will be on February 13th.
- Cook mentioned that the City will try to provide lunch or snacks for the February retreat.

VII. Announcements

- Dziubak reminded that the ½ day retreat on February 10th will start at 12:00 and be held at the American Job Center.
- Dziubak also announced that the CODI Executive Committee will be meeting with Mayor Kincannon on February 8, 2023
- Dziubak, Landfather, and Cook will be meeting with Mayor Kincannon on January 13, 2023, to present Universal Design's idea for all new builds in Knoxville being designed for Visitable Type C.
- Dziubak said that Shelor is welcome to participate in conducting an Accessibility Checklist but that it should be done with a CODI member.

Meeting adjourned at 4:58pm.

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