

Mayor's Council on Disability Issues Half-Day Retreat

March 8, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Agenda

I. Call to Order: 3:03 pm

II. Roll Call:

Members: Alexander, Barber, Black, Carter, Childress, Colebrook, Jenkins, Landfather, Lowe, Mathison, Maxwell, Mull, Shimmin-Orr, Robertson, Ross, Simmons, Spangler, Villanueva, Welch

City of Knoxville Staff: Cook, Dziubak

Present: Barber, Black, Carter, Childress, Jenkins, Landfather, Lowe, Mathison, Mull, Shimmin-Orr, Villanueva, Welch

Absent: Alexander, Colebrook, Maxwell, Robertson, Ross, Spangler

Interpreters: Monique Johnson & Marsha Coles-Felix

III. Approval of February Minutes

Simmons motioned to approve February minutes, Barber seconded, none opposed, and the motion carried.

IV. Vision Zero Presentation: Brian Blackmon, Director CoK Sustainability Office

Blackmon presented on Vision Zero and presented a series of questions to be discussed and answered by the CODI body:

1. Do you feel Knoxville's streets are safe and accessible?

2. What specific safety issues/concerns/problems have you experienced on Knoxville's streets?
3. Which of the following do you agree with?
 - a. I support reducing speed limits
 - b. I support increasing street amenities (street lighting, street trees, public art, sidewalks, etc.)
 - c. I support adding pedestrian facilities (high-visibility crosswalks, mid-block crossings, sidewalk connections, etc.)
 - d. I support adding bicycle facilities (separated bike lanes, merging lanes, new bikeway connections, etc.)
 - e. I support removing traffic lanes or restricting on-street parking to install improvements
 - f. I would be willing to add time to my commute for safety
4. Are the "rules of the road" (traffic laws) clear in Knoxville?
5. Do you have any final thoughts on what could make your transportation experience better?

Various members gave differing opinions on what changes could benefit Knoxville.

V. Member Advocacy and Information (5 minutes)

- a. Nancy Carter presented on the lack of access for those with visual disabilities to Learn Screen Reading Software.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Bylaws – We will need a new Bylaws chair as Will NeSmith will be moving out of the area and has resigned from CODI as of today.
- b. Membership
 - Will be meeting soon to discuss absences, potentially Monday at 2pm
 - Will NeSmith turned in his resignation due to moving out of the area soon.

- Kezia Cox also turned in her resignation due to already moving out of Knoxville.

c. Transportation – March Transportation meeting was cancelled this past Monday so that CODI members could attend the new Fort Kid ribbon cutting.

VII. Strategic Plan Group Reports

- a. Livability – Will be meeting on March 23rd at 12:30 p.m.
- b. Universal Design – Landfather and Dziubak gave updates regarding the Visitable Type C presentation given to Mayor Kincannon and other CoK executives on February 13, 2023.

VIII. Community Engagement

Due to presentations given at this meeting, members voted to postpone community engagement meeting to April.

IX. New Business

- a. Dziubak announced the location of the in-person May meeting will be at the KAT, Knoxville Station: KSTC Community Room, and that a tour of the facility will be given directly after.

X. Announcements and Public Forum

- a. Carol Sutton, public forum speaker

Spoke of the recent incident between KPD, Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center, and Lisa Edwards that ultimately culminated with the untimely death of Ms. Edwards. Ms. Sutton implored CODI to offer training for KPD and/or the hospital to prevent this type of situation from happening again.

Cook explained that, while she will not comment on an ongoing investigation, CODI is a body of volunteers that report to the Mayor via

Disability Services Office staff, and that the hospital is a private entity. She also mentioned that a number of CODI members have provided training with the KPD on engaging with the disability community in Knoxville.

b. Christy Frazier, public forum speaker

Spoke of her experience as a person who is deaf and homeless. She reported that she has repeatedly failed to have interpreters provided for her at various locations and has struggled to get help with housing. She further stated that at shelters she has tried to stay at, she would be separated from her eight-year-old son who is autistic, and expounded on issues she has experienced during his schooling related to both of their disabilities. She is looking for resources or help related to finding stable housing in Knoxville and being able to have her children back with her.

c. Light Up for Blue event created by the Tennessee Disability Coalition coming up on March 11, 2023.

d. The “Get Happy” video recording will be Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. If you are able and willing to attend, please arrive at Suite 539 of the City County Building no later than 10:50 a.m. that day. You may use your CODI badges to park in the garage under the City County Building for this event.

e. Mayor Kincannon has committed to attending CODI meetings on a bi-yearly basis. With her current scheduling, the meetings she has confirmed will be the July 12th and October 11th meetings in 2023.

f. Welch mentioned the annual pancake breakfast at the O’Conner Senior Center on March 31, 2023. She will email out the official flyer to all CODI members.

XI. Adjourn: 5:02 p.m.

2023 CODI Meeting Reminders

April 12, 2023 - Zoom

May 10, 2023 – In-Person (KAT, Knoxville Station: KSTC Community Room) ***DRESS IN BLUE!**

June 14, 2023 - Zoom

July 12, 2023 - Zoom

August 18, 2023 - In Person Full-Day Retreat (9-4, Public Works Building)

September 13, 2023 - Zoom

October 11, 2023 - Zoom

November 8, 2023 – In-Person (Location TBD)

December 13, 2023 - Zoom

ALL Regular, Committee, and Strategic Plan CODI meeting schedules are available at
KnoxvilleTN.gov/CODI