

Knoxville Mayor's Council on Disability Issues

September 8, 2021 - Meeting Minutes

Zoom

I. Meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm.

II. Roll Call:

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

Absent: Loebner, Moore, Mull, NeSmith,

Guests: Carter Hall, Regis Ann Borsari, Rob Spirko

Interpreters: Michelle Arthur, Jessica Brackeen

III. Approval of August Minutes: Childress first, Huang second – motion carried

IV. Scooter Program in Knoxville – Carter Hall, City of Knoxville Policy and Business Innovation

- There is currently a pilot program for scooters and that expires on December 31 this year.
- Would like to mitigate scooter issues while still keeping them downtown.
- Background Information:

- Went into effect 2019 with internal working group to manage program and policies.
- 2 initial companies provided 250 Scooters each.
- Had on-sidewalk parking.
- Was supposed to be ridden on the street.
- As of February 2020, required curfew and restaging requirements.
- Community survey was completed in February 2021.
- Current pilot program and moratorium expires December 31, 2021.
- Downtown and Fort Sanders area is where people typically want to ride and park scooters.
- Parking, riding on sidewalks, and safety is what leads to a negative experience with scooters and scooter riders.
- Major Needs and Concerns:
 - Address sidewalk clutter.
 - Cut down on sidewalk riding.
 - Monitor for continued safety (have only had 5 reported accidents).
 - Better distribution of devices across the city.
- Pilot Program:
 - 2 vendors, 250 devices each.
 - Applies to standing scooters only.
 - Sidewalk parking model.
 - Limited data sharing requirements.
 - Free for vendors to operate.
 - Uniform zoning.
 - Fines underutilized.
- Proposed Changes:
 - 2 vendors, 300 devices each

- Applies to standing scooters, seated scooters, and e-bikes.
 - If the permitted operator wishes to deploy seated scooters, the ratio between standing scooter personal motorized vehicles (PMVs) and seated scooter PMVs is one to three (1:3). Seated scooters PMVs are capped at 30 per permitted operator.
 - Each permitted operator must deploy a minimum of 50 shared bikes or e-bikes, up to 100. Shared bikes are not included in the count for seated or standing PMVs.
- Hybrid parking model with in-street parking zone.
 - City will convert 15 hashed out areas and in-street parking spots across Downtown and Fort Sanders into scooter corrals.
 - Averages 10 devices total per converted parking spot.
 - Companies must deploy here, but riders do not have to end rides in the spots.
 - If a company leaves scooters outside of the corrals, they would be fined.
 - Will start with Gay Street and then go from there.
- Detailed data sharing requirements with 3rd party aggregator.
- Permit application fee to cover program costs.
- Targets need zoning (e.g., in-street zone, equity zones.)
- More responsive and consistent fines.
- Proposed Permit Structure
 - Two 2-year permits

- Price of permits will cover City costs and bring in additional revenue.
- Permits can be revoked at any point.
- Vendors will be selected through a competitive bid process if this ordinance is adopted.
 - Proposed Application Evaluation: Experience, Operations, Fleet, and Data/Innovation.
- There will be fines for scooters that are left on the sidewalk and will be given to the companies who will in turn most likely find the rider and pass the fine to them.
- The City reserves the right to impound any scooter left in any area where accessibility is negatively impacted.
- PBA will be ticketing scooters in addition to ticketing cars.
- Next Steps
 - City Council will need to approve ordinance changes including adopting proposed changes and accepting permits or prohibit operation of scooters.
 - City will continue to collect feedback, incorporate changes, and possibly pilot solutions.
- Contact Information
 - Scooters@KnoxvilleTN.gov
 - CHall@KnoxvilleTN.gov

V. Tennessee Disability Pathfinder – Megan Hart

- Postponed until October 13, 2021

IV. Member Advocacy and Information

- Villanueva, director of deaf and blind services at Vocational Rehabilitation, shared that the State of Tennessee is bringing a conference to Knoxville in three weeks.
 - SERID is Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness and is an annual conference typically held end of September or beginning of October.
 - 2020 was Knoxville's turn, but it had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, so Knoxville will be hosting for the 50th anniversary conference on September 30th – October 3rd 2021 at the Hilton downtown.
 - This conference targets individuals in the health field, employers, educators, those within vocational rehabilitation, and individuals within the deaf or deafblind community.
 - Topics center around deafness, hard of hearing, deaf blind and furthering education on these topics.
 - Some examples of the topics that we are covering for our conference this year are educational interpreting, navigating mental health, and Surviving and Thriving in a Semi Virtual Workplace.

VII. Committee Reports:

Transportation:

- Did not meet.

Bylaws:

- Did not meet.

Membership:

- Did not meet.

Community Engagement:

- Foldable business cards and rack cards are now ready, we can get those to you several ways.
 - You can schedule to come pick up from CoK.
 - You can have them mailed to you.
 - You can potentially have them dropped off to you.
 - We will also bring these to the next in-person meeting.
- Chair is George Childress / Secretary is John Barber.
- Pathfinder – CODI Meetings are starting to be online now.
- Events – Community Resource Fair – Not a lot of turnout, virtual may be better.
- Helen Ross McNabb provider fair will be in person on the 17th from 10am-12pm
- VanDyke – Voting Rights Law in Texas, will severely impact people with disabilities.
 - <https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/07/politics/what-texas-voting-bill-does/index.html>
 - If this happens, encourage people to please go through these hoops and have somebody at each of these polling locations who is authorized to support people with disabilities.
 - DRT is an agency that can check it out and jump full speed ahead into the process to train those working at polling stations to work with people with disabilities or provide assistance.
 - “Crip the Vote” could be a good avenue to look to.
- Parking Day: CODI will be looking at doing this next year. Total expenditure for Design Innovations Architects, Inc. (DIA) this year is \$500. DIA doesn't have any issue with

covering the entire cost, but CODI would need to provide volunteers. This year's Parking Day is next week on the 17th 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. It's a movement to raise awareness and take back parking spots for a day highlighting various things that are important to the community.

- https://www.knoxbydesign.org/PARKING-DAY/?fbclid=IwAR1l4ky9lspBnyChrhShPu7fTMweOgZTmsw-07fgjqA4o7P9X_H8lOXnLyA
- <https://www.facebook.com/ParkingDayKnoxville>
- May want to do Parking Day and then collaborate with Universal Design to do a “Dinner and Design” event that evening and use the accessible building features Stephanie had built before Misha came to CoK.
- Alexander suggested that we may want to collaborate with Goodall homes or Clayton, he will check on accessible builds at Clayton and Goodall homes.
- Townhomes – Discussed how we could work to advocate for additional accessibility on the bottom, such as a full bathroom rather than just half bathroom, and one room that could be a bedroom. Additionally, we could ask for a zero-step entrance and reinforce the walls if needed along a stairway or stairs, so that someone could later put in additional accessibility features.
- Daniel Alexander met with Gary Harmon at a SPARK meeting and suggested that CODI get into contact with him. Harmon does a YouTube show called “Harmon Speaks” where he interviews people with disabilities and how they navigate life.

VIII. Strategic Plan Reports:

Livability:

- Tax Credits may be increasing! Disabled Access Credit Expansion (DACE) Act was introduced on 7/25, the eve of the ADA anniversary. The bill would expand the Disabled Access Credit (DAC), allowing businesses to get more tax benefits for accommodating people with disabilities and increase funding for the Dept. of Justice's (DOJ) ADA Mediation Program. This would mean more trained mediators and staff to help people with disabilities and businesses find solutions without going to court and would require a report to Congress on the specific types of calls the ADA Information Line receives.
- Updated Rack Cards and the Z-Fold business cards are completed.
- We have not started on designing the “Window Cling” yet. The window cling is for employers/businesses who participate in the CODI Accessible Checklist. Misha will reach out to CoK graphic design to see how we can best proceed and begin this process.
- Misha will start working on the accessible online version of the CODI Accessible Checklist.
- Mull will compile a list of shops in the Downtown area to make future visits regarding the CODI Accessible Checklist including addresses and hours of operation.
- Lowe will compile a list of eateries in the Downtown area to make future visits regarding the CODI Accessible Checklist including addresses and hours of operation.

Effects of Covid on PWD:

- Covid Strategic group met and discussed that the rapid pace of changes of regulations and information making the

information we have gathered obsolete combined with the lack of action/ability to make changes, that it would be best to disband the Covid strategic plan group and focus efforts elsewhere. A Doodle poll was taken and the vote to disband passed. Members who have been in the Covid group will be joining either Universal Design or Livability.

Universal Design:

- Universal Design went over a one-page sheet sent by Jim Tente explaining the differences between different types of dwelling units and made notes for updating the sheet to give greater clarity.
- Landfather scheduled Aimee, from Design Innovation Architects, Inc., to speak with Universal Design at their next meeting on November 9, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.
- Villanueva is speaking with Kingdom Design Ministries (KDM), a nonprofit that builds accessible houses, to try to schedule them to speak with the group in the upcoming months.
- Landfather will be visiting the Parade of Homes, which will be October 1-3, 8-10, and 15-17. He will be taking photos of accessible features, and will also be picking up flyers to share with the group at their meeting on October 12, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.
- Universal Design discussed next steps for collaborating with builders and contractors. Ideas included:
 - Hosting an event such as “dinner and design” with speakers, refreshments, sponsors, etc.
 - Sending out flyers.

- Creating a video for dissemination through social media, website, and email.
- Compiling free accessible building designs in one location and making them easily available to builders and contractors.
- Putting together a financial case through statistics to show typical profit to be made off of each accessible home built.

IX. New Business:

- KFD now has a trailer to be deployed in cases of emergencies that offers a unisex accessible restroom to use.

X. Announcements & Public Forum:

- Age Friendly Networks committee will be on September 20th from 9:00 – 10:30am. Melissa VanDyke is on the steering committee.
- Spangler would like to remind everyone about Project Search next Tuesday at 5:30 at the Job Center.

XI. Meeting was Adjourned at 5:26 p.m.