

Knoxville Mayor's Council on Disability Issues

April 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Zoom

I. Meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.

II. Roll Call:

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

City of Knoxville Staff: Dziubak

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

Absent: Alexander, Colebrook, Spangler,

Guests: Rose Shelor

Interpreters: Monique Johnson & Marsha Coles-Felix

III. Approval of March Minutes

Mull made the first motion, Villanueva seconded, none opposed, and the motion carried.

IV. Member Advocacy and Information

- Unless anyone has a topic to discuss, we will forgo this portion until next month as the scheduled member recently requested a future month for their advocacy portion.

V. Committee Reports:

Bylaws:

- Dziubak presented:
 - Alexander is current Secretary, and we still need a Chair to be chosen out of remaining members Barber, Childress, Lowe, and Robertson.
 - Bylaws that were approved in February of this year have been sent to Law and I anticipate that these will be codified and posted to the CODI webpage no later than July 2023.
 - Dziubak asked anyone if they want to step up as Chair, no one responded, so an email will be sent out.

Membership:

- Dziubak presented:
 - Shimmin-Orr is the current Chair, and we still need a Secretary to be chosen out of remaining members Mull, Spangler, and Villanueva. An email will be sent out to request someone to fill this role.
 - Nominations for new members are in progress, and will close on May 11, 2023. If you have anyone to nominate, please go ahead and send them to Dziubak as soon as possible.
 - Nominations for Officers are coming up soon, if you would like to be considered for a position, please let Dziubak know no later than May 10, 2023. Dziubak will be sending out an email to collect responses for each officer position.
 - CODI approved backup nominees from the last cycle, Ashley Wells Ajinkya and Hilary Brooks, will be filling in remaining fiscal terms for recently resigned members beginning at the May 10th meeting.
 - The Membership Committee is recommending dismissal of member Colebrooke due to excessive absences for voting by the CODI body.
 - Lowe asked if dismissal now prevented the person from being on CODI in the future, and it does not.

- The CODI body voted to dismiss Colebrooke, with only Robertson voting nay. The motion to dismiss passed.

Transportation:

- Jenkins presented:
- KAT had preliminary survey results for Reimagine KAT:
 - Simmons informed the group that while the Broadway Towers/ Connor Center route 23 will soon no longer be in service, he believes KAT is trying to make sure nobody is without service, especially people with disabilities.
 - Maxwell reported that a Lawyer spoke about servicing Juvenile court. The current proposal will cut out services to juvenile court and the detention center affecting individuals who need to get to that location.
 - Welch believes they will address the routes and population that are affected and will prioritize ways to meet those needs through a revised proposal.
 - KAT will have another meeting at end of April that can be viewed on KCM (Knoxville Community Media,) or attended in person.
 - Maxwell reported that KAT is still hiring additional service people.
- Welch informed group about AdvanceKnox.org:
 - Work on land use and transportation plan for Knox County.
 - The group is working on a project and extended survey to help prioritize infrastructure land use transportation plan.
 - Welch will send any updates on this.
- Transportation Modernization Act:
 - Passed in the Senate and will provide Tennessee with innovative tools to address traffic congestion.
 - This act has to do with the future of transportation, roads in urban areas, and taxes.

- Welch sent the link to the committee and advised the group that this is something to keep on radar for the future.
- Welch advised that the City is also doing two more studies:
 - These include both a coordination study and a regional study on providing better transportation resources.
 - Results are not ready yet but should be in the next two months.

VI. Strategic Plan Reports:

Livability:

- Mull presented:
- Met to review and finalize the most recent version of the Accessibility Checklist. The group added verbiage to the scoring area to reflect that certain portions must be passed in order for the establishment to qualify for a score of “excellent” or “great.” Those who receive one of these scores will receive a window cling and be included on the forthcoming page on the CODI website. Any establishment must now get either a “yes” or “n/a” on all bolded items to score “Excellent” or “Great”.
- Livability finished and approved the Accessibility Checklist Survey with Mathison motioning to accept the version as final, Jenkins seconding the motion, and carrying with unanimous vote.
- The final version of the Accessibility Checklist Survey was emailed to the CODI body, Jenkins made a motion to accept it, Landfather seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was completed for the remainder approval, the motion passed with attending members unanimously agreeing.

Universal Design:

- Dziubak presented:
- Meeting dismissed early due to only the chair and one other member attending. Because quorum was not met, no decisions could be made.

VII. Community Engagement

- CODI Grant Discussion: AARP Challenge Grants for 2024 discussion was led by Dziubak and Barber.
- Deadlines are approaching so we will have to move quickly in deciding which grant to go for and how it will be utilized.
- First are the Flagship Grants, which funds projects ranging from \$500 to \$50,000, with an average given of \$11,900.
- Second are the Capacity Building Micro Grants, which combine \$2,500 grants with additional resources, such as webinars, AARP Livable community publications, cohort learning, or up to 2 hours of one on one coaching with leading national organizations. The grants will target those age 50 or older in the following categories: walkability and community gardens.
- Third are the Demonstration Grants, which support ongoing community efforts by encouraging replication of efforts already taking place. This \$30,000 to \$50,000 grant will benefit residents, especially those age 50 or older, by advancing solutions that build capacity towards transportation system changes or implementing accessory dwelling unit design competitions that increase public knowledge of this housing option and encourage implementation of ADU supported policies.
- Barber mentioned that a discussion had occurred regarding possibly a community garden.
- Rose Shelor asked for clarification if anyone can apply or just those age 55 or older. Barber says it seems to be open to everyone.
- Dziubak discussed that one of the grants ties into what Universal Design has been working on, which is accessible housing, and that as folks get older the possibility of having a disability increases. The Grant that ties into design competitions to increase awareness of accessible housing could tie in well with Universal Design, as well as the issue of “Missing Middle Housing” which the City of Knoxville is looking into currently.

- Dziubak asked if anyone had other ideas related to what the groups within CODI may already been working on.
- Dziubak pointed out that we had 3 days set to discuss the Grants: today, July 12th (Mayor will attend), October 11th (Mayor will attend).
- Barber asked if anyone from Universal Design could speak to any ideas. Applications need to be turned in by January 2024.
- Childress believes demonstration grants may be worth pursuing as it looks like it will build towards transportation around Knoxville as well as helping with the ADU's, which is what we are focusing on.
- Landfather asked if anyone had done research on why we are considering doing the grants.
- Simmons asked if one of the issues with ADU's is a zoning issue with the County/City.
- Landfather said it could be an issue depending upon where the property is located at, or related to the whole process from applying for permits.
- Barber says that the grant is for design competitions to increase public understanding be informative.
- Simmons says that makes sense: to educate people on the process in Knoxville and Knox county.
- Landfather asked for clarification that the grant would be to host a competition, Barber and Dziubak said that is how they read it as well. Dziubak said we may be able to tie in with the Dinner and Design concept as the Mayor had suggested that CODI partner with a non-profit to help cover costs of hosting and perhaps the grant could assist with that.
- Simmons said that most of the people we talk to understand the concept of Universal Design.
- Rose Shelor asked what our interpretation of walkability is when applied to the disability community?
- Dziubak answered that walkability means that you have the space to get from one area to another without intrusions. Space for say, wheelchairs, strollers, and other mobility aids.

- Barber said that AARP defines walking as it includes both ambulatory and non-ambulatory modes, walking encompasses all forms of mobility devices, wheelchairs, canes, walkers, or other mobility devices. AARP has a Walk Audit Toolkit that you can use to evaluate an area's walkability.
- Barber also pointed out that the Transportation Committee has already done a lot of research that could apply to the demonstration grant with regards to transportation system changes.
- Dziubak wants to schedule another look at the opportunities and hold a May grant discussion at the in-person meeting, encouraging all members to bring any additional ideas to the table then.
- Simmons made a motion to continue the grant discussion in May and Childress seconded the motion. No one opposed.
- Barber reminded members that if they are signed up to send social media posts, to send them to Dziubak.
- Landfather asked if Simmons posted something about the standing wheelchairs, he said that he posted it on his Facebook page, Dziubak asked that it be forwarded to her through messenger.

VIII. New Business:

- Dziubak presented:
- Dziubak reminded all Chairs to create agendas to send out to their respective groups prior to meeting each month. This allows members to do research if needed, and helps to keep the meetings on track while making sure all agenda items are being discussed.
- Secretaries should be sending minutes from Committees and Strategic Plan Groups to both Dziubak and CODI Secretary Lowe as soon as possible after meeting to be included in the Regular Monthly CODI Meeting minutes. Minutes should include attending and absent members of the committee and bullet points summarizing discussions and decisions. On any votes, please include who made and seconded the motion and note all in favor and opposed. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Dziubak or Lowe.

- Barber made an addendum that if someone needs a copy of an agenda template so that they can copy and paste to ask Dziubak, Lowe, or himself for that.

IX. Announcements & Public Forum:

- Dziubak presented:
- Our May 10, 2023, meeting will be in-person and held at the KAT Knoxville Station KSTC Community Room from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Please remember to wear blue in anticipation of taking a group photo to use for social media publication during 2024 “Light it up Blue.”
- Autism Breakthrough is hosting a Family Fun Day for Autism Acceptance on Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the World’s Fair Park, and the event will include local organizations and resources. This event is free to the public.
- Public Forum Speaker, Rose Shelor is a graduate student in the Department of Geography and Sustainability at University of Tennessee Knoxville and is conducting research on how people with disabilities in the area are affected by public transportation. If you are interested in participating in her study, she can be contacted at mshelor@vols.utk.edu
- Rose Shelor explained that she is researching how individual bus stops can be part of the issues, as not being accessible or not having accessible crosswalks, is a real concern. She is conducting interviews with bus riders and what they need to be able to ride the system successfully.
- Landfather asked what precipitated her wanting to research this.
- Rose Shelor responded that she was trying to get a disabled parking pass for campus and had to jump through several hoops to get it.
- If she could not get an accessible parking pass, that would mean public transportation was her only other option and she feared it may not be accessible for her making it infeasible, and that she saw the need for people with disabilities to be able to get from one area to another.

- Simmons mentioned that he uses a power wheelchair and that he had ridden almost all routes on the bus to ascertain their accessibility. He offered to ask friends that use the bus as their primary transportation to help Rose out with her study.
- Dziubak invited Rose Shelor to come to the Transportation meeting and encouraged her to apply as a future CODI member.

X. Meeting was Adjourned at 4:00 p.m.