

CODI Minutes –December 13, 2017

1. Call to Order at 4:06
2. Roll Call –
Present: Allan, Austin, Booher, Brewer, Huang, Johnson, Jones, Lemak, Loebner, Moore, Newman, Petty, Sawhney, Secrest, Shilling, VanDyke, and City Liaison Cook
Absent: Brookshire, Davidson, Houston, Neely and Shipley
Guest: Dawn Distler, Director of Transit (KAT)
3. Approval of November Minutes – Austin **moved** to approve, Lemak seconded, motion passed.
4. Transportation Committee – met on November 28th at DRC. Discussion items included: a new KAT Wellness grant to assist folks with using the fixed route service to get to medical appointments; concerns over UTK’s Parking program requirement for people with disabilities; the use of autonomous vehicles and accessibility for people who have visual impairments. The local Social Security Administration office is cut off from transit due to its small parking lot size. There is an adjacent business that KAT “could” possibly cut through, but since the business is a car dealership, the route is often blocked by those vehicles. People with disabilities struggle to get to the SSA office due to a lack of sidewalks. Disability Rights TN is aware of this situation and will be working to discuss the needs with SSA. KAT is very interested in finding a solution as well, so Shilling will reach out to Dawn Distler and they will devise a strategy to discuss better access there. If those efforts fail, perhaps partnering with Congressman Duncan’s office will bring change.
5. Set up committee meetings – Chair Johnson requests that any committee meetings being scheduled occur with the use of a Doodle or other poll prior to setting the meetings, in order to allow people to participate as much as possible. Committees that meet regularly should have a set, recurring meeting date to encourage participation.
6. Review of Goals from the Retreat – (copied from September minutes)

The Next Two Years: two years remain in Mayor Rogero’s Administration, so now is the time to consider what impact has been made or still can/should be made in the disability community. Two groups formed to discuss what the focus of the next two years should be. A listing of initiatives developed that include the following:

- Re-boot the Disability Friendly City survey with specific action steps by December 31st.
- Increase community engagement by: Updating CODI website; Providing a social media presence; Meet monthly and take quarterly “field trips”; Develop CODI FAQ; Seeking timely speakers to come to CODI meetings; Better attendance at CODI meetings and events (by members and the community at large)
- Focus on LIVABILITY
- Increase awareness of and commitment to Visitability

- Expand the reach of the Disability Services Office by creating an actual office and adding staff (plus a space for volunteers)
- Steer clear of special committees. Instead, all of CODI can work together on the issues that develop and at each monthly meeting, will be given the opportunity to do so. Standing committees such as Executive Committee, Bylaws, Nominating and Transportation will remain, in accordance with the bylaws.
- Focus on recruitment—consider the disabilities that are represented on CODI and any areas where representation is lacking. The nomination form will need to be updated and can be put on the City’s website. A description of the time line for nominations and expectations of members should be included.

After discussion of these goals, it was agreed that members would review the CODI website and bring suggested changes or additions to the January meeting.

7. Disability Services Office expansion – after discussion of the desire to have an expanded DSO, Mark made a **motion**, seconded by Moore, stating “if the committee meets and drafts a letter that Chair Johnson is okay with, then send it as soon as possible.” Motion carried. Brewer and Shilling will join Johnson in drafting the letter and a brief strategic plan to guide the next two year’s efforts.
8. Most Disability Friendly City Survey Re-boot -- Sawhney recommended taking surveys to different agencies and organizations to have a face to face meeting in order to complete the surveys. Each member is asked to send at least three ideas, agency names, or names of groups or meetings (including appropriate contact information) to Johnson by Friday, 12/15/17.
9. New Business – Johnson stated that there should be a little more activity between meetings and by that, it is meant that it would be very helpful if members could read the minutes and do any “homework” prior to the next CODI meeting. Because of this, Johnson volunteered to send out the relevant “to do’s” after each meeting, so folks can get to work prior to distribution of the minutes.

Jones inquired as to the status of CODI’s offering input to UTK on the planned Neyland Stadium renovations. Cook replied that UTK is amenable to having CODI’s input, but since only partial funding is available at this point, it is premature since there are no design services contractors on board yet. CODI will reach back out in the Spring.

10. Announcements and Public Forum -- None

The next CODI meeting will be Jan. 10th at **4:00 p.m.**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Allan (for Judi Brookshire,) and Stephanie Cook