

Mayor's Council on Disability Issues

Minutes Feb. 14, 2018

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

2. Roll call

Present: Allan, Austin, Booher, Brewer, Brookshire, Houston, Huang, Johnson, Jones, Lemak, Neely, Petty, Secrest, Shilling, Shipley, Van Dyke, City Liaisons Stephanie Cook and Misha Byrne

Not Present: Davidson, Loebner, Moore, Newman, Sawhney

3. Minutes of Jan. Meeting

Booher made a motion to approve minutes and Jones seconded. The motion **passed**.

4. Introduction of Misha Byrne

Misha Byrne started working with Stephanie Cook on 1/16/18. She is from Knoxville, enjoys helping people and animals and has worked a variety of jobs before joining Cook's office. She is reportedly a "workaholic"! Welcome, Misha!

5. Dynamic Sports Update

Daniel Alexander and Leigh Belmont reported on City Rec Activities and shared the flyer with CODI. The Rec activities provide inclusive opportunities for all. The City Rec Department is looking for more participants and volunteers. Some of the activities are Power Soccer from 6 - 8 pm at Sterchi Elementary School on Tues.; Pickle Ball from 6 - 8 pm on Thurs. at Christenberry (there is a tournament planned); Softball on Tues. from 6 - 8 pm at Caswell Ball Fields; Wheelchair curling is coming, Drum Circle (Mon. from 1 - 2 pm) and Life Size Foosball (Wed. at 10:00 am) at Inskip Recreation Center. Come participate and support the fun!

6. Follow up from January Meeting

There were 9 items to be followed up at today's meeting. Several involved the Disability-Friendly City Survey and since Sawhney was not present, those items were discussed, but no decisions were made. Another item involved the website and since Davidson was not present that was put on hold. However, there was discussion of AARP's role and willingness to help with the survey. The AARP-ET office is contributing \$250 (five \$50 gift cards) to be provided in random drawings of respondents to the survey who wish to include their name and contact information. There was discussion of how to do this most fairly. It was determined that two changes need to be made to the current survey: add a check box that says, "If you would like to be included in a random drawing for a \$50 gift card, please submit your name and

contact information here” and another box that says, “Please check here if you are an AARP member.”

Huang also shared that state and local AARP representatives met with Mayor Rogero about working on Knoxville being deemed an "age friendly" city (this is a national program focused on making cities more “livable” for all ages and abilities.) Reportedly, the Mayor was very open to this. AARP also met with Habitat for Humanity on looking into retrofitting older homes to make them more accessible and visitable.

There was discussion of a field trip for the April meeting to the Health Department. Christina will look into planning this. Other sites for field trips include TSD's new high school, Parks and Rec, CAC, UT AG Center, Transit (including a bus ride), Lakeshore, and the Downtown Public Library.

7. Transportation Committee

Cook gave a recap from the meeting: Continue to look into solving the problem of accessing the Social Security Office—Shilling and KAT are discussing possible strategies to improve the situation; there is confusion regarding what is on UTK's website about the UT Accessible Parking permit policy and what actually occurs when a person attempts to get a permit, visitor parking and how one gets extra passes. The next step for this is to schedule a meeting; visitor parking and the process for getting extra passes—Misha will do some research to determine some of these answers. The new route from Turkey Creek for \$1.00 will officially begin on 2/26—this is great news!! KAT has revised the LIFT application and handbook as of 1/18/18. Special shout out to KAT for handing out flowers to passengers on Valentine's Day!

8. Strategic Plan Review

Chair Johnson divided the members into three groups to discuss Disability Friendly Survey, Increase Community Engagement, and Visitability and Livability. Group One decided they needed deadlines and ask that the survey be ready to be by 2/28, with the eblast by AARP to be 3/15 (it takes 2 weeks to go out) with the drawing for eblast responders to be 4/1 5; schedule the volunteers by the March meeting; by the next retreat have the reboot finished and a report to CODI.

Group Two looked at developing a CODI FB page and suggested Loebner and Davidson be involved in this process with heavy discussion on the need for the FB page to be dynamic; expanding the FAQ's on our website to include the top topics from the questions that come into the office (Cook's list of inquiries); and expanding the resources list.

Group Three looked at utilizing the partnerships that are already in place more effectively; building on social media and tracking social media to help make adjustments and improvements; promote activities with current partnerships such as KAT. Cook suggested inviting Paige Travis to our next meeting to help with some of the social media questions.

9. Nominations

Nominations are due by first Friday in April. We have received four nominations and we currently have 4 positions open, however more nominations are welcome.

10. New Business

There was discussion about a situation at the downtown Knoxville Public Library involving the refusal of a service animal and the security guard at the library requiring information that is not a legal requirement. Follow up with the County will occur in hopes that some outreach can be done to educate Library security staff as to the law regarding service animals.

11. Announcements

The Breakthrough Run/Walk for Autism is April 21, 2018 at Turkey Creek. Goodwill's Annual Awards breakfast is April 11 at the Emporium on Gay St. for \$15.00. Goodwill is looking for sponsors.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Brookshire
CODI Secretary