

## Mayor's Council on Disability Issues

February 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes

I. Meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm by Secretary Brewer.

### II. Roll Call

Present: Brewer, Brookshire, Byrne, Callen, Davidson, Huang, Mull, Neely, Orr, Parr, Petty, Rogers, Secrest,

Absent: Allan, Cook, Houston, Loebner, Plyler, Sawhney, Shilling, Shipley, Upton, VanDyke

Public Forum Guests: Chip Barry CoK; Dave Ndiaye, UTK Disability Services Office; Carter Hall, CoK Policy Office

III. Approval of January meeting minutes: Motion by Petty, Second by Mull.

### IV. Scooter Presentation by Chip Barry

A pilot program began on May 1, 2019 and the City allowed two companies to operate, Veoride and Zagster (Spin). The pilot occurred within a confined area – scooters can cross Gay Street but not Henley Street, and cannot operate on roads with speed zones above 40 MPH. UTK wanted to nix the scooters on campus, but the companies renegotiated. Scooters must be retrieved each night on campus.

To use a scooter, a customer must download the app – cost is \$1.00 to unlock, and \$.15 per minute. App provides rider rules and regulations to continue to purchase. Each company can make changes to the app, e.g. parking garages are fenced out. Changes can usually occur within 24 hours of the City requesting a change. To end the ride, the customer must lock the scooter in a rideable area. If the scooter is not locked, the customer will continue to be charged. Repeat offenders who do not lock scooters can be fined or banned. Customers can be automatically fined to the credit card on file. The City will consider expanding the catchment area to Bearden or Sutherland Ave. upon completion of the pilot.

The age of the rider is per state law, riders must carry a valid TN DL, and the maximum speed is 15 MPH. Customers can also be cited for accidents that violate state traffic laws, or if a customer is under the influence while riding. There are additional inclement weather policies – the scooters will not function in extreme rain or snow/ice conditions. KPD can issue citations for any violation of traffic laws. City can impose a \$50 per day

per scooter fee if the company is not following their contract. Helmets are available at Visit Knoxville.

Discussed possibility of banning scooters altogether, and City attorney recommended a Moratorium on the use rather than banning them altogether, as each company is a private company operating within the City. Barry reported the City will be considering additional requirements when the contract is renewed and the pilot program is complete. This will include a fee for the company to operate within City limits. This new contract will likely include designated parking areas so that scooters are not left parked on sidewalks or places that impede accessibility. A customer without a smartphone can access a scooter by calling the company and paying over the phone. In addition, there is a sliding fee scale for those with low incomes.

## V. CODI Committee Reports

Transportation: Did not meet last month but provided update based on today's committee meeting: sometime in the Spring the committee will revisit securement of wheelchairs. A bill has been submitted to create an Accessible Office of Transportation.

Bylaws: No report – no one from the committee was present.

Membership: Brewer discussed upcoming addition of new members, and group's review of applicants during today's committee meeting. There are five great candidates for membership. Continued discussion of attendance concerns to be addressed during New Business.

## VI. Strategic Plan Reports:

1. Community Engagement: No report.

2. Disability-Friendly Survey: No report.

3. Livability: Didn't meet last month but provided a report based on today's committee meeting: continued discussion of accessibility checklist, and the group will be creating one easy checklist. The form is close to usable but needs additional edits.

## VII. New Business:

1. The meeting with Mayor Kincannon will occur on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm. This meeting will occur in the Mayor's office conference room. All CODI members who wish to attend are invited to do so.

2. Membership Committee discussed letter regarding attendance and trends in engagement for the past 6 months. Discussed if an option should exist for members who enter a period of time where they cannot attend regularly to take a leave of absence and be replaced by someone able to actively engage in CODI. Brookshire mentioned looking at attendance within sub-committees as well as strategic plan committees. Discussed moving strategic/committee meetings to the regular CODI meeting. Huang commented that each committee should be able to decide when they meet as there are different group needs and dynamics among the committees.

Parr reported that she doesn't feel as though she's found her place within CODI due to a lack of focus on mental health issues within the City. Orr commented on issues related to the Deaf community, and a lack of follow-up when certain issues are brought to the group or the City's attention. Davidson inquired if there was a liaison with the City that CODI could meet with quarterly in order to obtain reports of issues brought to the City by CODI. Discussed reviewing current strategic plan with Mayor Kincannon on March 17 to determine her goals.

Discussed that those in attendance would like to feel a sense of accomplishment and want to know to what end are we creating goals and working towards them. Discussed CODI being more outcome-focused – what are the Mayor's expectations as this is her council, and how can we help her achieve her goals? Group agreed we need more consistent communication with her on a regular basis. Brookshire noted it would be nice to learn something every month through speakers and others in the community so that we share a common language.

Brewer will compile notes and lead continued discussion about this during March meeting.

#### VIII. Announcements & Public Forum

- The March CODI meeting will be held at Calhoun's on the River on Neyland Dr. Regular meeting will be held at 4:00 – 5:00 pm. Several committees will meet beforehand at 3:00. At 5:00 pm, guests are welcome to join for dinner. Brewer will confirm attendance and reservation.
- Brookshire reported that Breakthrough will be hosting a Race & Breakfast on May 21, 2020 to celebrate 21 years of Breakthrough. Event will be held at Cherokee Country Club.
- Brewer reported that Disability Rights Tennessee will be completing poll site surveys on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 and is looking for volunteers to visit poll sites for accessibility. Please contact Brewer for more details.
- On February 20, Nyle Demarco will be at UTK at 7:00 pm at the Student Union Ballroom. The event is free.
- Parr reported that on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> her organization will be hosting an event under the bridge near Salvation Army. Volunteers are needed. Event will focus on individuals' health needs.

Rogers motioned for meeting to adjourn, Petty seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:33 pm.

Submitted by Burke Brewer & Misha Byrne