

**Mayor's Council on Disability Issues Meeting Notes
January 13, 2021 @ 4:00 PM
Zoom Meeting**

Agenda

I. Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. Roll call

Present: Byrne, Colebrooke, Cook, Davidson, Foutch, Houston, Huang, Mull, Orr, Parr, Rodgers, Simmons, Spangler, Upton, VanDyke, Welch

Absent: Loebner, Neely, Shilling, and Shipley

III. Approval of December Minutes

Parr motioned. Huang seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

IV. Retreat Debrief

VanDyke provided a brief summary of the CODI retreat. Focuses included the following touchpoints:

- CODI needs to be thinking of new nominations “now” for submission of consideration to serve on the council. Individuals nominated will need to complete the online application.
- It was voted on and carried by the body to make Community Engagement a standing committee. The four standing committees shall be:
 - Membership
 - Transportation
 - Bylaws
 - Community Engagement

- After discussion, three strategic plan goals were voted on by the body and carried. The three new strategic plan goals shall be:
 - Livability
 - Effects of COVID on people with disabilities
 - Universal Design
- Bylaws Committee made the following recommendations:
 - Addition of Veterans with disabilities as well as seniors.
 - The City Liaison will forward candidates to the Mayor who shall appoint the individuals to fill the remainder of the MEMBER'S term's upon city council approval.
 - Removal of Members for Non-Attendance
 - Removal of Members by Petition
 - Duties of the Chairperson
 - General Membership, Regular Meetings, and Sub-Committee Meetings
 - Community Engagement Committee definition
- Livability Committee made the following recommendations
 - Implementation and Awareness of CODI Accessibility Checklist
 - Adding ADA Transition Plan to CODI Website
 - Engage appropriate City Representatives in addressing the implementation and outcomes of ADA Transition Plan
- COVID-19 Committee recommendations
 - Huang agreed to Chair this committee
 - Houston agreed to be the Secretary for the committee
 - The committee purpose was to review community and health services as it relates to COVID Access and Availability. Including the following areas:
 - Testing – variances in different types of COVID testing
 - After effects of COVID – how virus affects people with disabilities
 - Mental Health

- Vaccinations
- Racial disparities in the deaths due to COVID – in how COVID is affecting certain populations more due to genetics, poverty levels for quality of care and predisposed health conditions
- Face masks
- Food shortages – longer pantry lines and accessibility
- Barriers to former government assistant resources & programs
- Universal Design Committee included strategies for Transportation & Housing
 - Sidewalks and pedestrian amenities as well as Curb Ramps
 - Public Transit Options
 - Exploring ways to provide accessible taxis in Knoxville/Knox County Housing
 - Educate housing developer/providers about universal design principles
 - City to require more than the minimum Fair Housing accessibility requirements when new multifamily housing is created
 - Consider permanent supportive housing and how our most marginalized community members' needs are being addressed
- Transportation Committee recommendations
 - City Council sidewalks discussion approved unanimously to use money set aside 132 curbs to repair to meet ADA requirements
 - Develop good working relationship with KAT understanding perspective and bring back to CODI
 - Meet with new KAT director Isaac Thorne
 - Volunteer Assisted Transportation – Goal to meet with CAC and Community Engagement Committee by March 2021
 - Meet with City Civil Engineer or Knoxville Metropolitan Planning Committee regarding sidewalk improvement. Will follow up with City

and City Council to inquire about the timeline for completion of improvements by June 2021

- Encourage businesses to update those profiles in Google Maps Accessibility.

V. **Committee Reports for January 2021**

Bylaws Committee:

Did not meet in January

Transportation Committee: Foutch reported they met on Monday with Isaac Thorn the new director at KAT. KAT does want to improve their bus stops. They will do a campaign for which 100 out of 1500 bus stops will be selected for the updates. Mr. Thorn wishes to complete the first 25 stops quickly. Mr. Thorn would like to get the opinion from CODI members on which stops need updated. In February KAT will start to charge a fare for rides. Individuals who need a monthly pass will receive a special pass to ride. KAT decided to start charging again because their ridership is increasing. KAT is also trying to collaborate with private companies to partner with public transit.

Membership Committee: Angie recommended that CODI needs to start thinking about nominations and getting those in ASAP. The deadline to submit nominations will be March 1st. This will give the membership committee time to perform the interviews and look at the guidelines for the disability ratio on CODI. The City Council traditionally approves new CODI members in one of their June meetings. Byrne let us know how many spots need to be filled. The membership committee would like to have both the nomination form completed and the nominee resume. We currently have 18 of 21 members with four rolling off this term. The four rolling off are Davidson, Neely, Shilling and Shipley.

Community Engagement Committee: Angie reported the community engagement activities was open for anyone to be a part of. VanDyke recommended Community Engagement Committee, Transportation Committee, By-laws Committee and Membership Committee to participate. Community Engagement needs to meet in January 2021 to vote on a chairperson.

VI. Strategic Plan Reports

Livability : Did not meet in January, will be meeting in February.

Effects of COVID on PWD: Huang reported that the COVID Committee met this month to discuss the effects of the pandemic on individuals with disabilities. This included individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Individuals with disabilities are at increased risk of getting COVID, especially if they have underlying medical conditions such as:

1. Serious lung disease, COPD, weakened immune system
2. Individuals with barriers to mobility. If you cannot easily socially distance, you increase your risk and your caregivers.
3. Individuals with IDD have issues understanding how to stay safe
4. Don't know how to seek help or know how sick they really are

Good news: Telehealth Town Hall, if you have not had a vaccine and receive a positive COVID test you should immediately call your doctor or hospital and ask for an infusion. Its free and 90% effective and decreases hospitalization by 90%.

IDD individual's vaccine rollout has been in phases. The IDD population who cannot live independently fall in Phase 1 of vaccination. Colebrook reported, Breakthrough vaccinated 22 individuals living in CLS residential services. Breakthrough does not know when they will receive their 2nd dose. Knox County is doing a great job of distributing these vacancies and is mentioned as being the

top county in the state. TN is in the top 5 states in turnaround regarding the vaccine.

COVID Open Discussions included:

- Byrne reported that allegedly, the two shots are supposed to protect you for up to two years. After the first shot you are allegedly already 95 % protected.
- A person who is deaf blind has communication barriers at hospitals. Orr mentioned, hospitals are supposed to provide an interpreter.
- Orr reported training for medical personnel is desperately needed regarding deaf blind patients. Many times, you will find the interpreter is the educator for nurses as well. There is currently no training right now in the medical hospitals. At UT Hospital all doctors, nurses, and new staff attend a sensitivity training.
- Some people cannot stand in long lines to get the vaccine, or don't have access to the internet, or don't have access to transportation. Has the health department thought about how they are going to reach out to people with disabilities? DIDD is coordinating with health departments for people with IDD. The health department gives updated information almost daily on local TV stations.
- Mental Health Issues – pandemic has increased depression and suicide. We discussed what we could do to improve the process. Anyone in mental health distress can call the health department to relate to a person who has a caring ear and a mental health background and experience.

Universal Design Committee:

Did not meet in January

VII. New Business

Parr mentioned she is assisting an individual who needs a motorized wheelchair but needs to pay \$500.00 dollars to buy the battery. Parr to send CODI members the Facebook link if anyone would like to make a donate.

VIII. Announcements and Public Forum

- VanDyke reported Colebrook was nominated for the “40 under 40” award. Colebrook is being recognized for her outstanding work at Breakthrough! Congratulations Colebrook!!!
- CODI will be participating in the Neighborhoods Conference held March 2021
- Parr mentioned she has a nomination to make to the membership committee.

IX. Adjourn 5:25 pm

Upcoming Meetings/Reminders:

February 10, 2021	March 10, 2021
April 14, 2021	May 12, 2021
June 9, 2021	July 14, 2021
August 11, 2021	September 8, 2021
October 13, 2021	November 10, 2021
December 8, 2021	

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Submitted by:
Conya Mull, Secretary