

Knoxville Mayor's Council on Disability Issues

July 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

I. Meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm.

II. Roll Call:

Present: Brewer, Byrne, Colebrooke, Davidson, Foutch, Houston, Huang, Mull, Orr, Rodgers, Shilling, Simmons, Spangler, Upton, VanDyke

Absent: Loebner, Neely, Parr, Shipley

Guests: Keith Kirkland, Dawn Schneider and Warren Secrest

III. Approval of June meeting minutes:

Mull made a motion to accept the June CODI meeting minutes. Rodgers second the motion. There were no objections, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

IV. New Member Introductions:

Kendrise Colebrooke – Executive Director at Autism Breakthrough. Ms. Colebrook has a career background in workforce development in Rehabilitation Counseling.

Miller Foutch – Ms. Foutch taught special education for 13 years and grew up working in the career path of supportive living while putting herself through college. Ms. Foutch is currently working as a Work-based Learning Coordinator. Ms. Foutch is in her 4th year in a grant position at UTK through the Department of Education at UTK College of Special Education. Ms. Foutch also has a background in IDEA and enjoys teaching classes at UTK to students who are interested in becoming Special Education Teachers.

Joel Simmons – Mr. Simmons was an airline steward for most of his life until a car accident in 2010 caused his spinal cord injury which would send his career path into a new direction. Mr. Simmons has a master's degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling. Mr. Simmons is very active in his community working with newly spinal cord patients through the Patricia O'Neal Center.

Stacy Spangler – Ms. Spangler currently works for Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee as the Ticket-to-Work Administrator. Ms. Spangler is also involved with Project Search and the Knoxville Area Employment Consortium.

V. Presentation by Keith Kirkland on ADA Access Improvements:

Mr. Kirkland works with Knoxville's ADA Access Improvements Project. Mr. Kirkland presented an educational video to CODI members exhibiting the ADA Access Improvements that have been completed. Issues that were addressed and completed were at the following locations:

- Sharps Ridge Veterans Memorial Park
- John T. O Connor Senior Center
- Inskip-Norwood Recreation Center
- Locations for future funding that has been allocated for the ADA program.

Mr. Kirkland explained they continuously work on ADA Access improvement plans deciding which projects will benefit the most people. Mr. Kirkland also explained how the city's bidding process works for the projects they are working on.

VI. Committee Reports:

Transportation:

- Did not meet in June.

Bylaws:

- Did not meet in June however, Annazette Houston discussed the proposed changes regarding attendance for the CODI bylaws. A vote was taken to accept or reject amendments to the Bylaws. The proposed amendment was approved with none opposing. Byrne will submit the amendments to legal for approval.
- Yay: Brewer, Colebrook, Davidson, Foutch, Houston, Huang, Mull, Orr, Rodgers, Shilling, Simmons, Spangler, Upton and VanDyke.
- Nay: None opposed

Membership:

- Did not meet in June.

VII. Strategic Plan Reports:

1. Community Engagement:

Community Engagement will not meet again until the CODI Retreat

2. Disability-Friendly Survey:

Suspended until further notice.

3. Livability:

The Livability Committee has met every month. They have been constructing the CODI Accessibility Checklist. The committee reported they are very close to having it completed and be able to present it to CODI at September's meeting.

VIII. New Business:

No new business to currently report

IX. Announcements & Public Forum:

- July is the 30th anniversary of the ADA being signed. Due to COVID-19 the 30th Anniversary of the ADA celebration was originally scheduled for July 2020 has been postponed until 2021.
- Misha Byrne scheduled Facebook posts daily in July. Ms. Byrne encouraged CODI members to share on your page and with your friends if you haven't done so already.

X. Meeting was Adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Submitted by Conya Mull, CODI Secretary