

Knoxville Mayor's Council on Disability Issues October 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes "Zoom Meeting"

I. Meeting was called to order at 4:06pm.

II. Roll Call:

Present: Byrne, Colebrook, Cook, Houston, Huang, Loebner, Mull, Orr, Parr, Rodgers, Shipley, Simmons, Spangler, Upton, VanDyke

Absent: Davidson, Foutch, Neely, Shilling

Guests: Erin Reese

III. **Approval of September Minutes:** Upton made a motioned to accept September's meeting minutes and Mull seconded, motion passed.

IV. Executive Committee Meeting with Mayor Indya Kincannon

VanDyke, Executive Committee Chair reported the meeting with Mayor Kincannon went very well. The Mayor indicated she was on board with the recommendations presented by CODI. Mayor Kincannon shared several ideas with the executive committee to advance the purpose of CODI. Conversations were centered around the Disability Friendly Survey, Livability, need for affordable accessible housing, Community Engagement including increasing CODI's presence in the community, the ADA Transition Plan, and Disability Services Office Expansion.

Disability Friendly Survey

VanDyke explained to Mayor Kincannon the survey went through multiple iterations to ensure its validity and was created by experts in the field. VanDyke emphasized the need for additional help with promoting, monitoring, and disseminating the survey.

Livability and the need for Affordable Accessible Housing

VanDyke provided Mayor Kincannon disability statistics. Reporting half of individuals in Knoxville over the age of 75 have a disability. This number is growing daily due to the baby boomer population and advanced medical technology. Making this generation politically and socially active making up a large voting block and adding to the numbers of people with disabilities. Mayor Kincannon talked about universal design and how it impacts everybody including people with disabilities.

VanDyke discussed the issue of affordable and accessible housing is a major hurdle in Knoxville. CODI contacted several community resource agencies including the O'Connor Center and most agencies listed affordable and accessible housing as a barrier in Knoxville. We also discussed the need for

elevators in certain multi-family communities in order to provide more accessible housing. Accessible housing is not a low-income only issue, its an issue period. Mayor Kincannon spoke about the possibility of engaging contractors when building new complexes that a certain percentage are accessible and where elevators may be needed, encourage installation and let the developer figure out how et to get it done. Also, how do we engage contractors to see the potential to meet these needs (grants/funding?). Training and information are also needed for contractors to understand the huge demand of affordable and accessible housing.

Community Engagement Increasing CODI Presence in the community

VanDyke reported we can no longer just rely on a digital footprint. Most of the target population we serve cannot get online or don't have the resources to get online. Cognitive barriers and/or other age-related issues also pose as barriers for using technology. Mayor Kincannon was onboard with paper mailouts and a monthly newsletter on what CODI is doing including resources for this population.

Mayor Kincannon suggested incorporating Zoom meetings as an option for people to attend the CODI meetings. CODI can still meet face to face in the future but mixing it up may be a way to increase public awareness and attendance. Zoom meetings does allow more people to participate in a safer environment due to COVID.

ADA Transition Plan & Disability Services Office Expansion

VanDyke reported there was nothing in the transition plan addressing sidewalks. People who cannot walk very well/seniors and people using strollers and motorized wheelchairs are also impacted. Mayor Kincannon recommended a representative from CODI make a request to speak at next week's City Council Meeting in relation to funding of a sidewalk project and how it positively impacts people with disabilities.

VanDyke informed Mayor Kincannon the ADA Transition Plan was not viewable online for the general public to read. CODI did not have the complete ADA Transition Plan to review.

VanDyke addressed the need of expanding the ADA/Disability Services Office. Unfortunately, the Mayor was unable to make a commitment to expanding the Disability Services Office. However, the conservation laid the groundwork for the possibly of revisiting this subject when the budget is less restrictive. VanDyke proposed we meet with the mayor at least twice a year, Mayor Kincannon was open to the idea.

V. CODI Retreat

- We will have the December retreat via Zoom on **Wednesday December 2nd**
- **Half Day - 9am – 12:30pm**

- We will have the ability for that particular meeting to be able to do breakout rooms for committees to meet during the retreat.
- Everyone send Misha 5-6 interesting things about yourself, she will compile, and email out the facts BEFORE the retreat and have people guess during the retreat.

VI. Committee Reports:

Transportation:

Huang reported Joel Simmons was nominated as Chair of the Transportation Committee and Huang was nominated as the secretary. The transportation committee is a lot more than paratransit, cabs, etc. it also includes pedestrian pathways and greenways. On the radar is accessible taxi companies. Talk to TPO about available grant funds and when they become available. The committee plan on discussing their committee goals at the 2020 retreat. The transportation team will meet monthly on Mondays before the CODI meeting at 3pm via Zoom. Next meeting dates are:

- November 9th 3:00pm Zoom
- December 7th 3:00pm Zoom

Bylaws:

Did not meet in September

Membership:

- Burke Brewer resigned and we nominated these individuals to fill 3 vacancies-
 1. Dennis Landfather
 2. Tiffany Weddle
 3. Nancy Welch
- Discussed other potential nominations for future appointments
- Reminder to group that we will start asking for new member nominations in January, but we encourage CODI members to start thinking of your own nominations and having discussions with these individuals now to gauge serious interest.
- We will require that a nomination form be completed, and we also encourage that these are filled out by someone OTHER THAN the candidate. If a candidate submits a resume only, Misha will reach out to the candidate and ask for a nomination form. Membership committee will not review applicant information until a nomination form is included in overall submission.
- Need all nominations by the end of February so that the Membership Committee can recommend the candidates to the entire CODI body.
- Need to focus on nominating people who have a disability

VII. Strategic Plan Reports:

Livability Committee

Mull reported the CODI Accessibility Check list is complete and now waiting on feedback from legal before going forward. The committee discussed next steps for the check list which included the following:

- How to share information with businesses/establishments
- How will the checklist be accessed (paper, electronic version, etc.)
- Will it be mailed to new businesses?
- Will the checklist be available on CODI's website?
- Livability Committee wants to meet together at an establishment and review the checklist together after COVID. What worked / What's not working discussion.

Next Livability meeting will be:

- November 11th at 3:00pm via zoom

Community Engagement:

Gave update on Community Engagement History, and where we stand with Goals and Progress:

1. Developed SMART goals each year to make goals achievable and measurable.
2. Discussed that instead of having just a committee for community engagement, that every committee should ALSO focus on community engagement as a goal in their individual meetings.
3. Discussed questions to ask at every CODI meeting:
 - Are there any events coming up that CODI could attend? Don't forget the google doc. (will develop by next CODI meeting)
 - Reminder to everyone to reach out and invite people to attend or to speak/share at CODI
 - Reminder to bring up CODI in conversation and to mention FB page
 - Does anyone need any rack cards to share?
 - Do any other committees have any community engagement ideas or needs?

VIII. New Business:

- No new business

IX. Announcements & Public Forum:

- CAC is having a drive-up resource fair next Wed. Conya said that she would distribute CODI info to the individual leaders within those groups

X. Meeting was Adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Submitted by Conya Mull, CODI Secretary