

## **Knoxville Mayor's Council on Disability Issues**

September 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

### **I. Meeting was called to order at 4:02pm.**

### **II. Roll Call:** Mull,

**Present:** Brewer, Byrne, Colebrooke, Cook, Davidson, Foutch, Houston, Huang, Loebner, Mull, Neely, Orr, Parr, Rodgers, Shilling, Shipley, Simmons, Spangler, VanDyke

**Absent:** Upton

**Guests:** Ted Osborne, Gail Padgett, Jennifer Searle, Daniel, Hank Jenkins

**III. Approval of August Minutes:** Misha suggested amending to add approval of July minutes to the August Minutes. Mull motioned to accept August minutes with this amendment and Huang seconded, motion passed.

### **IV. Speaker: Aaron Bradley – Will be rescheduling with us**

### **V. Committee Reports:**

#### **Transportation:**

- The transportation committee needs to meet and discuss appointing someone to Chair this committee.
- VanDyke recommended the committee appoint someone who has some knowledge of transportation or works in that field.
- Cook suggested CODI reach out to CAC Transit/Mobile Meals Kitchen Karen Estes and Nancy Welch. Spangler volunteered to meet with Nancy Welch and measure her interest level serving on CODI or be a subject matter expert on the Transportation Committee.
- Colebrooke reported anyone is welcomed to attend the October 8<sup>th</sup> Transportation Committee Meeting. Misha to send out meeting invite via "Zoom."

#### **Bylaws:**

- Did not meet in August

#### **Membership:**

- Did not meet in August
- Will be meeting September 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

## **VI. Strategic Plan Reports:**

Vandyke recommended the Livability Committee investigate aging adults regarding accessible housing. There are not that many accessible homes being built. Maybe do some with city/county officers and contractors regarding the meaning of accessibility. A lot of our sidewalks are not smooth. Voters are interested in this. This is a good reason to make the case we need to expand our ADA office to meet the growing needs of the population.

Gail expressed to CODI she has experiences a great deal of discrimination regarding accessible housing.

Cook recommended anytime someone experiences a cracked, unlevel or missing sidewalk pieces to please call 311. The city of Knoxville will log it, send an inspector out and if it's an accessibility issue it goes higher up the chain. It will not be ignored.

VanDyke is in the process of gathering data to present to Mayor Kincannon. We are anticipating within the next month we should have everything we need to request a time and date to meet with Mayor Kincannon.

### **1. Community Engagement:**

- Community Engagement Committee will not meet again until after the CODI Retreat.
- VanDyke asked the Community Engagement Committee if they could go ahead and start back their meetings starting next month. The committee agreed and Misha set up a Zoom meeting for the Community Engagement Committee for October 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.
- It was mentioned there are a lot of individuals in our communities who are feeling isolated and are dealing with depression. We need to find a way to get information/resources out to folks who cannot access social media or be in the community.
- Cook mentioned maybe the Livability and Visibility Committees could mesh together and share ideals. Cook is seeing work being done that could apply to both committees. Cook said just because we have these separate committee groups it doesn't mean it's that groups responsibility only, but it's all of CODI as a whole.
- VanDyke mentioned that we need to send the next Livability Committee Meeting invite to the Community Engagement Committee too.
- Hank Jenkins is new to Knoxville and requested his interest with wanting to be involved with the Community Engagement Committee. Mr. Jenkins also requested the ADA Transition Plan

for him to review. Misha emailed the ADA TP to all CODI members to review.

- Rebecca Parr shared a story about a young man who was homeless and had one leg. Ms. Parr has been hosting him on her porch while he awaits issues to be resolved to get into housing. The young man also has COPD.

## **2. Disability-Friendly Survey:**

- Suspended until further notice.
- VanDyke reported CODI had a great opportunity with the Disability Survey to gather needs in the community, but it was never optimized like it should have been.

## **3. Livability:**

- Mull reported the Livability Committee met in September and the Disability Checklist is now complete.
- Cook reported the checklist was sent to Stephanie Welch for review and feedback. After Ms. Welch has provided her feedback, we will know what our next steps are.
- We also discussed having Rack Cards printed. It was deemed needed by the Livability Committee as a positive way of promoting community awareness and CODI. Cook volunteered to check and see if they don't already have some printed up.
- The Livability Committee discussed the possibility of developing a FAQ one-page flyer or a disability resource guide flyer. presenting resources in the local area. The flyer could be distributed to community resource agencies and serve as a quick reference guide for the individuals they serve.
- The Livability Committee discussed asking CTV if they could interview CODI and discuss who and what our purpose is as well as how the community can be involved.
- Mull sent an email in August to local community resource agencies asking for feedback regarding needs they see for individuals with disabilities and our senior population. The agencies were very eager to share their feedback. The main needs that were repeatedly mentioned were the following:
  - The need for affordable and accessible housing
  - The need for housing assistance and access
  - Accessible resources for home bound seniors/individuals
  - Accessible information on resources that is not internet based possibly radio or television or in print format.
  - Low Barrier Shelters for homeless as transition points to stable/reliable housing options.

- See an increase of individuals who are having a hard time taking care of their selves alone.
  - Need a “Resources You Need to Know” for services in Knox County for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
  - Better awareness about the services available for older adults
  - Partner with the Office on Aging, O’Conner Center and the AAAD by serving on Boards, or attending regular scheduled events.
- The Livability Committee discussed doing a presentation about CODI in 2021 and with other community resource agencies.
  - Cook suggested asking Michael Dunthorn to come and speak at a CODI meeting regarding an Overview on Low Barrier Shelters in Knox County and the homeless population.
  - Misha volunteered to get a quote on how much it would cost to mail a postcard to individuals.

#### **VII. New Business:**

- No New Business

#### **VIII. Announcements & Public Forum:**

- Disability Services Department will soon be moving into the old Office of Neighborhoods spot in the City County Building. It has several office spaces, plus a large central area which can be used for small committee meeting in the future.
- O’Connor Senior Center has an advisory board and is encouraging members of CODI to apply to serve on the board.
- Office on Aging also has a board, and would like to partner with CODI in the future
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#### **IX. Meeting was Adjourned at 5:13 p.m.**

**Submitted by Conya Mull, CODI Secretary**