

Mayor's Council on Disability Issues (CODI)
June 8, 2016
Small Assembly Room

Craig Lemak called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allan, Austin, Booher, Brookshire, Davidson, Dockery, Getino, Hector, Hunter, Johnson, Jones, Lemak, Moore, Neely, Newman, Payne, Sawhney, Secrest, Shilling and Shipley

MEMBERS ABSENT: North

CITY STAFF: Stephanie Cook

GUESTS: Rachel and Jordan, Parks and Recreation Department interns

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION:

April Minutes: A motion to approve the April minutes was made by Secrest and seconded by Austin— motion carried

Nominating Committee

Lemak welcomed all new member candidates and thanked them for their interest in CODI. All four candidates were asked to provide any information that they felt would be helpful in getting to know them better, and to share their connection to disability.

Candidates:

Annazette Houston, University of TN
Richard Johnson, Mental Health Assoc. of E. TN
Josh Loebner, Design Sensory
Melissa VanDyke, Pellissippi State

After each candidate addressed CODI, the vote was taken. All four candidates received affirmative votes for membership and will be recommended to the Mayor and City Council for official appointment. New member orientation will be available prior to the first regular business meeting in August.

New Officer Candidates:

Meaghan Johnson, Chair
Mark Allan, Vice Chair
Judi Brookshire, Secretary

All three officer candidates were accepted (with no nominations from the floor,) and received affirmative votes for their respective positions. The slate of officers will be recommended to the Mayor and City Council for official appointment.

Transportation Committee

The committee has reviewed the proposed changes to the City of Knoxville Parking ordinance and offered suggestions to ensure true accessibility in the built environment, concerning arriving on a site and parking. Booher attended the recent MPC public meeting to express CODI's support for the changes that will increase access for everyone.

Employment Committee

Johnson gave the report. Four brief (up to 15 minutes,) educational tapings have been created for the “Employment Matters” series and an on-site video has been developed to showcase Project SEARCH at East TN Children’s Hospital. The deadline to submit ideas for the sticker design competition has been extended until the end of July.

The Employment and Community First (ECF) waivers provide a new category of service in Tennessee (handout). The PETS Program is going nicely (handout).

Awareness/PR Committee

Moore gave the report. The committee is drafting a “rack card” that will show what CODI is and is revising design of a new logo for CODI, based on previous comments from the membership. Educational cards intended to enhance communication for people who are deaf or hard of hearing and law enforcement officers has been drafted and will be ready for distribution once the logo is finalized.

Most Disability Friendly City

The committee has met three times since the March meeting and has worked hard to edit the survey so that it is easy to read and understand. Final comments/edits will be incorporated and then the survey will be ready to hit the streets!

New Business

Walkability video—the Knox County Health Department is creating a video to show how important walkability is to all people, including those with disabilities. After a request for volunteers, Shipley, Moore, Austin, Booher and Cook will participate in the video creation.

Announcements

*Getino reported that significant disparities exist in our local school systems, such as more disciplining of black males and people with disabilities. Students with language barriers or disabilities continue to underperform. Changes are coming, but some will take money to bring about.

*Hunter reported that the application for the Trinity grant had been received and “Eyes of Faith” is poised to receive it to increase participation in the arts, regardless of disability.

*Austin reported that John Ferguson (from Texas,) is now with the Doctoral Physical Therapy program at South College.

*Secrest reminded everyone about the upcoming event to discuss Elder Abuse issues and asked everyone to take the survey, as well as plan to attend the event on August 15th at O’Connor.

*Be a Friend Festival October 14th 10am – 2pm at Ashley Nicole Park

*Cook will send a Doodle poll out to determine the date of the annual retreat.

With no further business, Lemak adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: August 10th at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Stephanie Cook, City Liaison