

Mayor's Council on Disability Issues (CODI) Minutes
June 8, 2017

Chair M. Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

Members Present: Allen, Austin, Booher, Brookshire, Davidson, M. Johnson, Jones, Lemak, Loebner, Moore, Newman, Sawhney, Seacrest, Van Dyke. City Liaison Cook.

Members Absent: Houston, Loebner, R. Johnson, Neely and Shilling

Motion to approve Feb. Minutes made by Allen, seconded by Lemak and the motion passed. February minutes approved with the correction made of adding Newman to "members present".

Nominating Committee:

Lemak reported on the recent committee meetings. Here were three vacancies and three nominations, Angela Petty, Burke Brewer, and Dr. Laykoon Huang. All three were voted on to the CODI Council. Allen, Brookshire and Johnson were confirmed and will continue in their executive positions for one more year. Lemak reported that several people will be rolling off the Council next year and we need to begin earlier to find appropriate members. Several areas will not be represented unless addressed specifically.

Employment Committee:

M. Johnson reported on a collaboration between Goodwill and UT on a project paper for Occupational Excellence. They were not selected but it is a good beginning and can be built upon. There was a question of whether or not closed captioning is on the CODI website currently and a request to have it as an available option. There was discussion of administrative changes coming to the American Job Centers/Career Centers. There was also discussion of the Transition Fair which was reportedly very successful. Congratulations to Michele Pittman and her committee for this successful fair. There was discussion of the Community Conversation. About 80-90 people attended and notes are being prepared and will be distributed. KAEC also had a survey and will have the information available.

Transportation Committee:

Booher reported on KTA public hearing. She stated KAT is proactively making route changes to benefit riders. She said a route is going to the Change Center and there seems to be a strong effort to get people where they need to be and want to go. Following a Kroger closing buses were rerouted to the Mechanicsville Food City and new routes are being added. Mark Hairr has appointed two new committees, one on service enhancements and the other on fares. Booher reported there was discussion on the Summit Towers and one citizen was very vocal about issues there. However, plans are

already underway to remedy the concerns. Booher reported on the Bus Rodeo coming to Chilhowie Park next Sun. and Transportation Week 6/19/17 – 6/23/17 with Fri. being a Free Ride Day. Seacrest added he mailed a power point on ADA compliance. Also, CAC, AAA, and an OT organization are hosting a car event to help seniors learn about adaptations and enhancements to help seniors be more successful drivers. He also discussed a Senior Trust Fund of \$35 million. This will be used to fund statewide approaches for dealing with issues have with housing dental, legal and transportation.

Awareness and PR Committee:

Moore reported on the committee meeting. The Communication Cards for the deaf/hh were distributed and the CODI Council was very impressed and appreciative. There was a discussion of a media release. Cook reported KPD have expressed their approval of the card. The cards were developed by CODI to support all D/HH in the area. They will be distributed to KCD, TSD and may also be downloadable. There was a suggestion to get them to Knox County Sheriff's Dept. as well. Dickinson offered to copy the card to the Parks and Rec web site. There was a discussion of the CODI website and a desire for it to be more exciting, colorful with a list of service providers, and information updated (such as the Mayor announcing the sidewalks in the city will quadruple!). Loebner suggested emailing ideas to the committee to enhance the website.

Most Disability Friendly Committee:

Sawhney reported on the survey. He stated it's been developed and piloted with 200 responses, but the data is skewed and we need a systematic process to collect the data. This is the current hurdle to overcome. Cook asked about the possibility of a simpler link which might facilitate more responses. Sawhney said this can be accomplished and they are also creating a contact list of individuals who can distribute to agencies and groups. The survey needs to have a broad range of representation from the community before the data can be evaluated.

There was discussion of the Neyland Stadium Renovations. Several years ago CODI reached out to the renovation committee as well as DRT. Lemak made a motion that CODI send a letter to the ADA Coordinator regarding CODI's willingness to provide recommendations regarding the renovation, and include Anisette's organization. Newman seconded and the motion passed.

Monthly Meetings:

Brookshire suggested committees meet every other month on the no CODI meeting months. This was met with agreement.

Annual Retreat:

M. Johnson will send a Google Poll to find a Fri. in Aug. or Sept. for a retreat. Seacrest made a motion to invite the mayor to the retreat and Christina seconded. (I did not note if there was a vote).

New Business:

Knox County's ADA Coordinator, Pat Carson, is retiring and there is not a replacement. Seacrest made a motion CODI send a letter to encourage Knox County to hire a replacement and Shipley seconded. The motion passed.

Announcements:

Booher reported Cindy Pickle from KAT will be attending our meetings in the future. It was noted Ms. Pickle was present for most of the meeting.

The Council on Aging recently completed a survey and the results should be available soon.

Burchett's annual picnic for seniors is in John Tarleton Park on 9/15/17.

There is a USDA Hunger Hotline (866-348-6479) for individuals who may be at risk for hunger.

Public Forum:

Seema Singh Perez was present and said she was running for 3rd District and wanted to learn more about CODI.

Tommy Wade, Public Building Authority, attended and reported the county has hired a consultant to look at goals and projects for the county to see where money should be spent.

The meeting was concluded at 5:36

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Brookshire, Secretary