

CODI Minutes – Nov. 8, 2017

1. Call to Order at 4:04
2. Roll Call –
Present: Allan, Austin, Booher, Brookshire, Davidson, Houston, Huang, Johnson, Jones, Lemak, Loebner, Neely, Sawhney, Shilling, Shipley, City Liaison Cook
Absent: Brewer, Moore, Newman, Petty, Secrest and VanDyke
Guest: Kristin Grove, Director of Property Development for PBA (Public Building Authority)
3. Approval of October Minutes – Jones **moved** to approve, Austin seconded, motion passed.
4. PBA and ADA Facility Renovations – Cook introduced Kristin Grove with PBA, who is partnering with the City to renovate some facilities to provide better accessibility as part of our ongoing ADA efforts. Ms. Grove explained her position at the Public Building Authority as the Director of Property Development and that her role is one that “manages people, budgets and time.” Ms. Grove is an architect and has over 18 years of experience in the private sector prior to coming to PBA. One of the main roles Ms. Grove plays is in the planning and development of projects for the City and County.

As Cook explained, the City has recently reviewed 21 facilities for their level of accessibility and has a specific amount of money that will allow renovation of up to nine facilities during the first phase of this project. There is approximately \$900,000 in ADA Capital funds available. Cook shared the list of facilities with the membership and related that, given the nature of the facilities and their respective locations, it may be best to start with the following facilities—renovate as many as possible with this year’s funding and move on down the list as more capital money becomes available.

For “round one” the nine chosen facilities are: Fort Dickerson (South), **Inskip Park and Pool (North)**, John T. O'Connor Senior Center (Central/East), Lonsdale Park and Recreation Center (Central/West), **Holston River Park (East)**, **Sam Duff Park (South)**, Sharp's Ridge Park (North), **West Hills/John Bynon Park (West)** and Victor Ashe Park (NW). If, once the project begins and estimates come back higher than we have money budgeted, the first facilities to get renovations will be Inskip Park and Pool, Holston River Park, Sam Duff Park and West Hills/John Bynon Park.

Another issue is the cost to make playgrounds fully accessible. Because the cost of a playground upgrade can be as much as an accessibility renovation of an entire park, it has been determined that playgrounds should be separated from the general project work for now and that the City should look for creative collaborations or grants to improve access on playgrounds. After discussion, Shilling made a **motion** to “support the facility priority list as

presented with the caveat that we pursue grant moneys for renovation of the playgrounds at the same time.” Houston seconded and the motion carried.

5. Most Disability Friendly City Survey Re-boot

Sawhney recommended taking surveys to different agencies and organizations to have a face to face meeting to complete surveys. Brookshire asked each board member to bring at least three ideas, agency names, or names of group meetings (including contact information) to the next board meeting in December.

6. Disability Services Office Expansion

There is currently a part time position open in the Disability Services office. There was a lively discussion by the CODI members about the need for an additional full time person to meet the growing needs of this office as Knoxville strives to improve as a more disability friendly city. There was discussion as well regarding the office space and the need to have a place that is welcoming to the public. There were recommendations to look at how to present this information/recommendation regarding a more stable accessible ADA office to the city. Discussion included looking at what other cities across the country have done in regard to ADA services and supports. The group decided to look at this information and prepare something to send to the Mayor at the Dec. meeting.

7. New Business

There was discussion of the Neyland Stadium expansion and CODI’s desire to offer input. Jones made a **motion** CODI re-contact the university regarding Neyland Stadium expansion and offer input on accessibility. Shipley seconded the motion. The motion passed. Cook will reach out to UTK on this.

8. Announcements and Public Forum

Neely shared information about Marriott Courtyard Hotels. This chain is the official NFL hotel and has lifts at its pools and whirlpools.

Brookshire announced the ribbon cutting for the Alan J. Mealka High School at TSD will be Dec. 14 and the annual Pancake & Sausage Day Fund Raiser at TSD will be Dec. 15.

The next CODI meeting will be Dec. 13, at **4:00 p.m.**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Brookshire and Stephanie Cook