

Present at the October 22 CACDI meeting were:

Mary Hiland

Katie Frederick

Jenna McCartney (out of town guest of Katie Frederick)

Paul Walker

Elizabeth Sammons

Dave Cameron

Aaron Bracone PALS guest speaker

Hector LaMort business partner of Aaron Bracone

Geri Cooper MOBILE

April representing COTA

Ryan Patris OSILC

Guest speaker, Aaron Bracone began his presentation to the committee. He, along with his partner, Hector, operate a program called PALS. PALS stands for physical activity and life skills. Adults with physical or mental disabilities ages 18-65 are the primary population served through pals. Pals began operating in Gahanna in 2012. Since its 2012 founding, PALS has partnered with the Wellness and Health Center of Columbus State Community College to provide numerous choices of physical activity options for program participants. During morning sessions of the program, focus areas include education, resume writing, and independent living skills. In the afternoon, program participants have more choices for physical activity including swimming, COSI, visiting zoos, etc. PALS is in the process of building an art studio near Nationwide Children's Hospital; the new studio will provide artists with disabilities a chance to create, promote and sell their artwork. In addition to the Gahanna location and the art studio, PALS also operates a center in Heath, Ohio to help serve residents of Licking County. Partnering with Columbus State Community College has allowed PALS participants to work toward earning college credit and a degree if they so desire. Program participants begin by taking introductory courses at Columbus State, and then may be able to transition to courses geared toward the major they may wish to obtain. Community partners are crucial for PALS; some partner agencies, such as Dog Rescue and task allow participants the chance to interact with dogs and take part in physical activities. For more information about PALS visit their website www.palschrysalishealth.com or call them at (614) 5326420.

Following Aaron's presentation, chair Mary Hiland began the business meeting portion of the meeting. Due to very low attendance of committee members, no votes could be taken because there was not a quorum. Chair Hiland reminded the group the next CACDI meeting is on December 3 and that is the final meeting of 2015. Before the December 3 meeting, Mary will contact Jim Christian to ensure we have a speaker for that meeting. Ann Christopher then introduced herself to the group; she was a late arrival to the meeting. Elizabeth Sammons then provided a brief update on searching for CACDI on the Columbus.gov website. Links to meeting minutes, although not in chronological order, were able to be located, Parks and Recreation materials were also easily located on the site. An area of difficulty was encountered by Elizabeth when attempting to access information on Columbus's 311 system. Flyers were then distributed talking about the committee; they were leftover from the 25th ADA anniversary celebration. Katie mentioned it might be a good idea to post some flyers on library bulletin boards to attract new and more members to CACDI. Mary will follow up with Kay Grier concerning speaking to Columbus City Council about CACDI and see where things stand getting this project underway.

Pam Makowski, a visitor to the meeting then introduced herself to the group. Pam is an attorney who is in a wheelchair following hip replacement surgery this past July. She may heal and no longer need to use her wheelchair, but for now she is learning how to best adapt her life to deal with her disability. Pam acts as a guardian for juveniles, and looks forward to becoming more involved with the committee. Meeting locations are set for 2016; with the exception of the June and July meetings being held at the State Library, the meetings will take place at the Franklin Park location. During February, the committee may hold its meeting at the Early Voting facility and have an opportunity to speak with and educate staff. Ranell Tomlinson from the Ohio Civil Rights Commission then gave a brief update. The meeting was then adjourned at 3:00 PM.