



Columbus Advisory Committee on Disability Issues

Minutes of Meeting September 24, 2015

Members present: Mary Hiland – Chair, Karen Kostelac – Vice Chair, Kay Grier (OSILC), Ann Christopher (Goodwill Columbus, CADC), Marlene Stewart, Bill Stepp (COTA), Tricia Kovacs

Provisional Members present: Paul Walker

Members absent: Rajai Saleh

Members Excused: Tiffany McClain, Jay Favuzzi, Katie Frederick

Staff: Rick Isbell

Guests: Michelle M. Brown (Local Matters), Ryan Patrus (OSILC), Geri Cooper (Mobile)

Call to Order: Mary Hiland, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1 pm.

Guest Speakers:

Michelle Moskowicz Brown, Executive Director, Local Matters

Greg Kostelac, Attorney

Local Matters:

www.local-matters.org, facebook Local Matters

Michelle M. Brown was introduced by Marlene Stewart.

Local Matters was founded in 2008 by local chef Michael Jones when he learned that children have lower lifespans than adults. Noreen Wormack is also a founder who specializes in community development. Michelle started as a volunteer, then moved to operations director and now Executive Director. The organization focuses on teaching children about healthy eating. They start with children as young as 3.

Some of the programs they have are:

- 24 week program for children
- how to shop for food, drive-thrus are more expensive than home cooking
- \$10 challenge – purchase enough to feed family of 4
- 12 hour instruction for adults
- train the trainer

Some of the organizations they work with:

- Headstart
- After school programs in public and private schools
- Community gardens, recreation centers
- Recovery centers (e.g. Amethyst center for Moms & kids)

- Corporate wellness
- Community Kitchen
- Franklin county board of Developmental Disabilities (Johnstown Rd and Early Childhood Education center)
- ARC industries
- Ohio School for the Deaf
- Community Development for All People, south side
- St. Vincent family center
- Healing Hands Center, Clintonville
- Outside Franklin county: Kentucky, Ohio Wesleyan University, Krogers
- Festivals: Pride, African American Men's Walk

Local Matters has a new facility on the south side at Livingston & Parsons where they will move in December. They are currently located at Broad & Parsons.

Local Matters classes are free or on a sliding scale.

During the Q&A, suggestions were made to provide adaptive equipment such as utensils for those that need it. Ann Christopher suggested Sears Hardware as a good source. The Vision Center used to have a kitchen, will Local Matters do the same? They have a 1000 sq ft kitchen. Paul Walker recommended Nan Klapnower who used to work at the Vision Center and still works with people. Kay Grier recommended working with independent living centers and the Office on Aging.

Greg Kostelac:

Greg Kostelac was introduced by Karen Kostelac.

Greg studied at the Kennedy school of government at Harvard and is a member of the State of Ohio Election Commission.

Greg began his presentation by thanking CACDI members for our service. He believes that many politicians are "tone deaf" regarding disabilities. For example, the Democratic party meetings are not accessible. Greg said that former governor Dick Celeste did get it, he would refuse to speak at an event if it was not accessible.

Greg discussed Issue 1 regarding re-apportionment which is supported by both parties. This is done every 10 years using census data. The 33 senate districts and 99 House districts are designed to maximize each party's advantage. This is also known as gerrymandering. Our current legislation has 62 Republican and 38 Democratic House representatives, and 28 Republican and 11 Democratic Senators. Issue 1, proposed by John Husted, would bring balance to the Ohio legislature.

Greg discussed Issue 2 which would prohibit constitutional amendments which create monopolies. Issue 2 was proposed in response to Issue 3, which proposes

legalizing personal and medicinal marijuana to be produced at 10 locations in Ohio. The Supreme Court ruled that the language of the issue was misleading and needs to be corrected to use the term personal rather than recreational. We discussed the Fresh Start Act which will expunge criminal records for marijuana possession if Issue 3 passes.

Editors note: Here are two links with details on Issues 2 and 3:

[http://ballotpedia.org/Ohio_Marijuana_Legalization_Initiative,_Issue_3_\(2015\)](http://ballotpedia.org/Ohio_Marijuana_Legalization_Initiative,_Issue_3_(2015))
)

[http://ballotpedia.org/Ohio_Initiated_Monopolies_Amendment,_Issue_2_\(2015\)](http://ballotpedia.org/Ohio_Initiated_Monopolies_Amendment,_Issue_2_(2015))
)

Greg also discussed the ADAMH and zoo renewal issues.

Approval of August minutes: Kay moved, Ann seconded, all approved.

Web Accessibility:

Searching for CACDI, ADA or disability will find our web page. But the current and past meeting minutes are not available. This problem is currently being corrected. We can ask for help from David Debelak (dadebelak@columbus.gov). Rae Nutter said she was having problems accessing the Recreation & Parks page. Tricia asked if members could try the following tasks on the www.columbus.gov website and let her know if any accessibility issues exist. She will write up a letter of our findings. The tasks are:

- Access Recreation & Parks department website
- Create and view 311 requests
- View City Council meeting agendas and minutes
- Anything else you are interested in

We would like to add our brochure to our website. This is something that we could send to speakers so they can learn about our committee.

Membership in CACDI:

Rick said there is a new person (Jenny) assigned to manage our committee's membership. Ann Gazelle and Paul Walker will be added to our membership. We discussed adding additional members to our committee. Ryan said that she is a late-deafened adult, and does not know ASL and does not need an interpreter.

Future meetings:

October 22: nomination of officers, Guest Speaker, Aaron Bracone, CEO of PALS Chrysalis Health

November: no meeting

December 3: election of officers

Meetings are set for 2016 at the Franklin Park Adventure Center, except the June and July meetings.

Announcements:

Rick announced the Oct 20 Veteran's stand down. There will be medical and dental services, outreach on services, legal services, expungements by judges, boots by Rocky Boots and clothing for veterans. They are taking coat donations. The Veteran's Parade will be on Nov 6.

Tricia asked if members could help review the new Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon being installed on Summit & Maynard for accessibility. Karen and Mary will visit with Tricia.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.