

COLUMBUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Minutes of the meeting June 28, 2018
at the Michael Coleman Government Center, 111 N. Front St., Columbus,
Ohio 43215

ATTENDANCE.

Patricia Kovacs - chair
Deb Wood - co-chair
Wayne Cocchi - co-secretary
David Cameron - co-secretary
Nick Popa - Columbus staff Public Service
Bob Roehm - member
April Williams - COTA
Laura Akgerman - member
Katie White - member
Derek Mortland - guest
Nancy Pryor Sully - Columbus City Council Liaison
Jane Rusanowsky - Columbus Building & Zoning
Amit Ghosh - Columbus Building & Zoning
Scott Messner - Columbus Building & Zoning
Zane Jones - Columbus ADA Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS. Chair Tricia Kovacs called the meeting to order at 1:11 PM. All in attendance introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES. Moved by Deb Wood, seconded by Wayne Cocchi. Minutes approved.

PRESENTATION.

1. City of Columbus Zoning and Building Services Department - Scott Messner, Jane Rusanowsky and Ahmit Ghosh. Discussed new building updates including online access for customers, zoning, zoning variances and adjustments, reviewing blueprints for ADA accessibility, full compliance section

for writing orders and managing cases for people who are not following code/in compliance. Typically the department issues 40,000-50,000 permits annually and conducts 90,000 inspections annually. . Reviewed Chapter 11 and 34 for new builds and renovations/alterations/additions for following ADAAG and ANSI accessibility guidelines. The ADA checklist used to determine accessibility was also reviewed.

2. Review of Multi-use Trail Connector proposal (W. Broad to Ohio to Erie Trail). Plans were shared by (Nick Popa, City of Columbus Design Department) for a new streetscape project proposed at W. Broad and Wilson. It includes a dual staircase from the sidewalk up to the trail with a center channel for bikes that people could roll up as they use the stairs. Concerns were brought up for access for people with disabilities. It was also recommended that the current street access off Broad Street would better serve people with disabilities if better signage and street lighting was up to direct them to the more accessible entrance.

OLD BUSINESS.

Discussion of possible future speakers at CACDI meetings. Those included inviting the new Director of the Diversity and Inclusion Office (once a new director is appointed), inviting a representative from the Department of Technology and inviting someone to speak on the Public Health Active Transportation walk audits.

NEW BUSINESS.

Discussion took place on the new Lime Bikes that have been placed around the city. Some have noticed they have been left blocking the sidewalks. The

company needs to be contacted that bikes should not be left in the areas of the sidewalks (especially near intersections/crosswalks) that would block access for a person with a disability, or for others for that matter.

INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS.

Members talked about the new Michael Coleman Government Center's access for people with disabilities. It is a beautiful building but some concerns were pointed out: elevator doors close too fast, volume of voice on elevator announcing floors is too low, and the hand swipe system to the front entrance and restrooms is very inaccessible for people who are blind/low vision or may not be able to raise their hands up to swipe.

ADJOURNMENT. Dave Cameron moved, Deb Wood seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:16.

Submitted

by,

Wayne Cocchi, co-secretary