

COLUMBUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Minutes of the meeting March 22, 2018
at Northside Branch Columbus Library, 1423 N. High St., Columbus Ohio

ATTENDANCE

Marlene Stewart, member
Jay Favuzzi, member
Paul Walker, member
Deb Wood, member
Elizabeth Sammons, member
Tricia Kovacs, member/chair
David Cameron, member/co-secretary
Vicky Prahin, guest,
Bob Roehm, guest
Bill Stepp, COTA
Zane Jones, ADA Coordinator, City of Columbus
TJ Gadja, Engineer-in-Training, City of Columbus

Chair Tricia Kovacs called the meeting to order at 1:05 at the Northside branch of the Columbus Library, where parking was a long-distance adventure.

PRESENTATION. Tricia introduced TJ Gadja, Engineer-in-Training, standing in for his boss, Nick Popa, Infrastructure Management, Dept. Public of Service, who usually attends. Nick was well represented by TJ's detailed presentation on "Sidewalk/Walkway/ADA Management" for the city. (See link in Tricia's April 5 email for all 52 PowerPoint images.)

Some highlights among the unit's responsibilities:

- examine "constructability", i.e., feasibility—can a project actually be built where you want it
- manage 311 requests
- maintain the GIS (Graphic Information System) database—the geographic record of the city
- manage bike rack installations
- consult on new sidewalk construction for private development sites
- manage sidewalk dining to maintain ADA accessibility widths
- evaluate experimental bike lanes
- participate in "bike & walk" audits

The city has approximately 30,000 intersections, roughly half of which need some level of repair.

ADA COORDINATOR. Columbus Parks and Recreation has a therapeutic exercise program comprising activities that are modified for participants with disabilities. Currently under development is a paralympic marksmanship program for air rifle and air pistol shooting.

In April, Zane will attend OSU's 18th annual spring conference called Multiple Perspectives on Disability.

Derek Mortland, Center for Disability Empowerment, will use the "BlueDAG" online assessment tool to survey city facilities. Zane had reported last month that he had contracted with the Center to assess eight city buildings in July.

The most common questions he receives are about service animals and about ADA requirements for private facilities and private employers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jay reported that Columbus State is developing a program to train emotional support dogs specifically with veterans in mind.
- Tricia provided info on numerous upcoming seminars, conferences and meetings.
- Elizabeth reported that the fifth annual Home Choice conference slated for early April has room for more attendees at the sessions but the meals are all fully booked.

NOTE: Tricia stated that our April meeting, set for this library location, *will not* take place here because of the impossible parking. An alternative site will be found.

ADJOURNMENT. Meeting adjourned at 2:57.

Submitted by:
David Cameron, Co-Secretary