

COLUMBUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Minutes of the meeting April 26, 2018
at Jerry Hammond Center, 1111E Broad St., Columbus, Ohio

ATTENDANCE

Patricia Kovacs, chair, member
Paul Walker, member
Bob Roehm, member
Nancy Pryor Sully, City Council, guest
Nick Popa, City of Columbus, Dept. of Public Service, guest
Marlene Stewart, member
Vicky Prahin, guest
Laura Akgerman, member
David Cameron, co-secretary, member
David Ellsworth, guest
Tiffany McClain, member
Katie White, member
Marisa Sheldon, member

CONVENING. Chair Tricia Kovacs called the meeting to order at 1:06 and introduced our guest presenter David Ellsworth of the Ohio Disability and Health Program, OSU Nisonger Center. He offered an excellent, thorough overview on the topic of “Improving the Accessibility of Clinical Spaces in Ohio.”

The talk described the myriad physical, attitudinal, and other barriers that people with disabilities, especially those in rural areas, may experience in receiving health care services. These issues are often confounded by the tendency of health care providers to overestimate the accessibility of their facilities.

For a complete look at David’s subject matter, click on this link to his 21-slide PowerPoint presentation: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1xgDwSMrvZq6ipOKlvXGS2bD8ShtrWGPN7-EgjLiiBlS/edit?usp=sharing>

MINUTES. Bob noted that he is a member, not a guest, as the March minutes incorrectly stated. Tiffany moved to approve the minutes as corrected (Paul second). *APPROVED*

OLD BUSINESS. We have occasionally discussed doing an “accessibility walk” which would offer people the opportunity to “experience” various forms of disability, for example negotiating a wheelchair or ambulating with a white cane. Someone said that Columbus Public Health has offered such an event. Tiffany, Tricia, Katie, and David Ellsworth volunteered to look into this.

Several members attended Ohio State’s annual ADA conference and gave it high praise.

NEW BUSINESS. Nancy Sully announced a City of Columbus Career Fair on May 12.

The topic of crosswalks came up and we discussed the idea that a mid-block crosswalk might actually be safer than one at an intersection. While the utility of such crossings may not be immediately apparent, the subject generated considerable comment without arriving at any conclusions.

Tricia reported that Elizabeth Sammon’s membership will expire at the end of June and that because she will be in Europe for several weeks, she has attended her last CACDI meeting. Tricia relayed Elizabeth’s best wishes and farewells.

Tiffany described Columbus State’s new campus way-finding service for blind students via BlindSquare. The service is a voice-activated GPS app that provides detailed information about the user’s environment and will be particularly useful in finding COTA bus stops near campus.

ADJOURNMENT. Meeting adjourned at 2:55.

NEXT MEETING. We will hear from a speaker on the topic of Columbus’s “Creating Healthy Communities” program. (CHC is a national initiative of the American Public Health Association.) Meeting to be held May 24 at the State Library of Ohio, 274 E. First Ave., Columbus.

Submitted by:
David Cameron, co-secretary