



Columbus Advisory Committee on Disability Issues

Minutes of the Meeting - March 27, 2014

Members Present: Mary Hiland, Karen Kostelac, Wayne Cocchi, Dave Cameron, Enjie Hall, Ann Christopher, Scott Lissner, Jennifer Flynn, Patricia Kovacs, Tiffany McClain, Kay Grier, Marlene Stewart

Members Absent: Cynthia Macintosh*, Elizabeth Sammons*, Kathy Blair*, Ann Gazelle*
Rae Nutter, Brent Simonds, Jennifer Flynn, (* denotes Excused)

Provisional Members: Rajai Saleh, Ann Gazelle

Staff: Rick Isbell (absent)

Ex-officio: Carrie Fortman (City of Columbus), James Christian (City of Columbus), James O'Neil (COTA), Justin Henderson (COTA),

Guests: Paul Walker, Katie Frederick, Geri Cooper, Jay Favuzzi, Eileen Paley (Columbus City Council Member), Nancy Pryor Sully (Legislative Aide to Ms. Paley)

Mary Hiland called the meeting to order at 1:00.

Member introductions.

February Minutes. Approved as amended.

Guest Speakers. Columbus City Council Member Eileen Paley and Nancy Pryor Sully (Legislative Aide). Nancy's contact phone is 614-395-6200
Council Member Paley gave an overview of Council and mentioned that Council members are at-large and represent the entire city. They separate by committees and topic. Ms. Paley currently chairs the administration committee (covers community relations). She will have quarterly meetings for neighborhoods to come together. She also oversees civil services. New Council Member Troy Miller chairs the Public Service committee (which covers access issues).

Ms. Paley has focused on funds for ADA ramp/access, at least \$500,000. that request came directly from CACDI. We are moving forward with continuing the installation of ramps around the city. The issue of disability spot parking meters was also recommended by CACDI, and meter poles were reduced in size at half length.

Further requests/recommendations, etc., should be sent to ALL Council members as well as the mayor's office.

Marlene discussed having monitors at bus shelters where smoking is prohibited. COTA does put signs in the shelters. Jim O'Neil mentioned that COTA Supervisors do observe

the shelters as they drive around. The smoking issue at the shelters is not something that City Council oversees. Scott mentioned bus stops not connecting to sidewalks in some neighborhoods. COTA is working on this as neighborhoods were built for cars to drive around and COTA has put some stops in those areas for access. Folks should contact COTA and the city to make them aware of this sidewalk issue in their area.

Marlene also discussed pedestrian issues while crossing High Street and folks who make a right turn on red. Ms. Paley talked about how everything dealing with traffic is based on the state traffic manual that the city has to follow. Most downtown intersections are not right on red during certain hours. If there is a particular intersection where crossing is a problem and no driver limits are not posted for right on red, then folks should call 311 to report the issue. People should also call their State Representative about any concerns with the removal of traffic signals, particularly on the east side.

She also mentioned that the City of Columbus is revamping its entire web site. Scott offered his expertise to assist the city in making sure the new web design is accessible.

Ms. Paley and Ms. Pryor Sully will work with CACDI to develop a disability day for the city, to be held September (2014 if possible). CACDI will discuss this more at their April meeting. CACDI will contact Ms. Pryor Sully in regards to this, after the April meeting.

There are 2 ways that CACDI can become a more powerful group:

1. Members becoming a certified tourism ambassador for the city (Jennifer Flynn is an ambassador). We should consider having the director of the program come and discuss the program. It is a 4 hour class at a cost of \$25.00.
2. We also need to remember we are a voting block that can affect change.

Old Business. The DOJ group (law enforcement and disability task force for central Ohio) met at OSU. It is not an OSU group. Attendees included Columbus Police Chief Jacobs and others from around the state. Scott will organize the next meeting for some time in May. He needs to identify a space and date. Others will be invited to join the group as well, including Mary Hiland.

CACDI representatives - Discussion continued on including reps other disability communities. We will look at young folks when autumn 2014 semester begins. Scott recommended we may want to contact Donna Foster, who works for the GCPD, for a possible local Youth Leadership Forum alumni. We also want to work with veterans groups and Jay Favuzzi who joined us today from Columbus State's veterans office said he would be interested in joining the committee.

Facebook/web Page - No update

Future meetings topics -

April - Rajai will contact a Medicaid speaker.

May - Enjie will contact a speaker .

June - Karen has contacted Representative Cheryl Grossman.

July - we talked about a representative from a Mental Health association.

August - David will contact a speaker on access for people with disabilities at shopping malls (Easton).

Other meeting topics-

Airport services for people with disabilities (Mary will ask Elizabeth to follow up).

Reverse 911.

New Business/COTA. Jim O'Neil discussed the transit system review which is accessible on COTA's web site. It looks at various scenarios that they are looking at. It is intended to improve the effectiveness and system services of COTA. Public meetings will also be held for community feedback so they can draft a final scenario and transit service review. It will take 1-3 years to implement.

They are also replacing bus stop shelters in the downtown areas with a newly designed shelter. COTA's new signs are being installed as well and will have higher visibility for folks and a QR code so people can get information on their smart phones. CoTA's new web site will also be going live very soon.

Announcements. Multiple Perspectives conference April 16-17 at the Blackwell Hotel at OSU, 35 sessions. ada.osu.edu

ACB Ohio Family Seminar April 12 at the School for the Blind, 9:00-3:00, for parents and professionals who have or work with children who are blind/low vision. acbohio.org

An article about Paul Walker was in today's Dispatch about his upcoming clinical trial stem cell procedure related to vision loss, to regenerate the optic nerve and tissue. It is a National Eye Institute and National Health Institute certified trial.

Individual Concerns. HB 397 proposes increasing the penalty for hit and run incidents. Members could take this back to their respective organizations or call their state representatives to note their support for it if they want.

Carrie reminded us to call 311 with any concerns about sidewalks, ramps, etc.

Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Next Meeting. April 24, 2014 at the Columbus Museum of Art

Minutes Submitted by: Wayne Cocchi, Secretary