



Columbus Advisory Committee on Disability Issues  
Minutes of the Meeting - June 2014

**Members present:** Mary Hiland, Wayne Cocchi, David Cameron, Patricia Kovacs, Tiffany McClain, Kathy Blair, Marlene Stewart, Karen Kostelac, Scott Lissner, Elizabeth Sammons, Rajai Saleh

**Members Absent:** Sue Willis\*, Enjie Hall\*, Kay Grier\*, Cynthia Macintosh\*, Ann Christopher\*, Jennifer Flynn, Brent Simond, Rae Nutter, (\* denotes excused)

**Provisional Members:** Katie Frederick, Ann Gazelle

**Staff:** Rick Isbell (absent)

**Ex Officio:** Carrie Fortman (City of Columbus), James Lee Christian (City of Columbus), Jim O'Neil (COTA),

**Guests:** State Representative Cheryl Grossman, Paul Walker

Mary Hiland called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM  
Introductions of attendees were made.

**May 2014 minutes** - Dave Cameron moved and Marlene Stewart seconded.  
Minutes were approved.

**Old Business.**

Discussion continued on pedestrian safety and roundabouts... Patricia and Jim talked about a webinar they attended on the topic. Topics included issues for people who are blind and using roundabouts and public right of way accessibility guidelines. One speaker said they could not speak on what changes might be made before adoption. Draft pro reg is current best practice but not currently being followed for installing signals for crossing safety. Big issues are speed, noise, and traffic safety. Roundabouts are designed to achieve a reduction in speed.

What can CACDI do to influence design of future roundabouts? CACDI did send a letter a few years ago to the city and our concern was taken into consideration. There is currently only one roundabout in the city of Columbus.

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons. Stops car traffic so pedestrians can cross only when there is a pedestrian there. The beacons can be made accessible. (Find more info at:

[http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/fhwa\\_sa\\_12\\_012.htm](http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/fhwa_sa_12_012.htm))

**Action item** - Invite communication with the division of traffic management, possibly their Transportation and Pedestrian Committee (T & PC) to discuss with them about educating the public on the laws regarding the beacons. Jim will find out who chairs that committee and get that info to Mary.

CACDI web site. Rick Isbell told Mary previously that he has contacted someone to make the city website more accessible. Mary also asked Paul Walker if he could follow the progress on the city's web site accessibility.

Board Membership. Letters have been sent to members Brent Simond and Rae Nutter regarding unexcused absences this calendar year. Mary is waiting to hear back from each of them.

Jim Christian gave some clarification on Detectable Warnings. Ann did not think the raised spots on the warnings were sufficient to find. A person is supposed to be able to determine them with their feet but some people have a problem with that and can depend on their footwear too. Jim explained how they came about and why they are installed the way they are. It is a federally mandated design (truncated domes) that all have to abide by, folks can use ones made of different materials though. It is explained in the Code of Federal Regulations. Also, can only be 2 ft deep and must run the entire width of the ramp. Cast iron domes seem to be the better material that are long lasting and do not wear down. Folks expressed concern for the radial ramps being installed. Makes it hard for people who are blind or low vision to line themselves up to cross the street accurately. The radial ramps on high street downtown use cast iron domes. These will most likely be the only areas where radial ramps will be installed.

It was also noted that anytime someone walks on a sidewalk there has to be an 80 inch clearance (ADA standard) above them and 4 inches from the side. So if one hits an obstruction such as a branch they should call 311. It is the property owner's responsibility to trim their trees, but the city would remind them they need to keep the walkway clear.

Karen gave an update on the sink hole at intersection at Main and Wall streets. The hole is now over a foot deep and they have put caution tape on it and someone wrote sink hole on the tape (then was removed).

Update on Future Topics/Speakers for CACDI meetings.

Dave re: shopping mall access speakers. He contacted Easton and Polaris via their web site and had no response. He did learn that the Easton person will be in contact with him after July 1.

Elizabeth re: airport access. She has called the airport a number of times, but has not heard back from them. She will give them Paul's name to contact her as she will be away in July.

### **New Business.**

James Christian talked about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (The treaty language can be found at:

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>)

This treaty encourages other countries to follow the U.S. ADA standards. Other countries have ratified the convention, but U.S. still has not passed it. Many conservative legislators are promoting many misconceptions to try to stop it from being passed. Senator Portman has voted against it.

Since we serve the Mayor and City Council we might contact them to see if we have sister cities in other countries that have passed this convention.

**Speaker:** State Representative Cheryl Grossman, Majority Whip, (represents House District 23). Former mayor of Grove City for 12 years.

Contact info: 614-466-9690 (office) e-mail: Cheryl.Grossman@ohiohouse.gov

Introduction by Karen Kostelac (contact info on her card)

Representative Grossman is cosponsoring, with Representative Stinziano, HB 84 which is designed to give significant tax credits to homeowners who make accessible changes to their homes as well as new builds. Over the lifetime of your home 60% of visitors will need some kind of access.

The City of Cincinnati enacted Ordinance 43-2014 that further enhances this cause. Rep Grossman shared a copy of Cincinnati's ordinance. (Note from Wayne: This is the only site I could find with language about the ordinance, it includes some pages with graphics: <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/community-development/linkservid/D3BB2481-0F3F-7BB8-985D03C4F89BFE3A/showMeta/0/>).

Rep. Grossman has also reached out to the home builders association (BIA) to help secure language similar to Cincinnati's for a statewide law. They will be setting up an interested party meeting. The goal is to assure visitability in homes in Ohio. She will keep in contact with CACDI as they move forward on wording of the bill.

Folks also mentioned to her the use of roundabouts in communities. She said she would talk to ODOT about this issue. There was also discussion on cab drivers not wanting service dogs in their cabs.

**Announcements.** Carrie reminded all to call 311 with any issues they find in the city. She was also at an ODOT course titled Planning and Designing for Pedestrian Safety. The gentleman's name who she was impressed by, particularly for his involvement with roundabout and blind pedestrian concerns at such location is Bastian Schroeder (Assistant Director, Highway Systems Institute for Transportation Research and Education North Carolina State University). His resume can be found online: <http://www.itre.ncsu.edu/ITRE/about/documents/resumes/SchroederB.pdf> on pedestrian safety and was very impressed with the speaker Bastian.

The City of Columbus is restructuring the Department of Public Service and the Division of Mobility Options has been eliminated. Jim Christian will be housed in the Division of Infrastructure Management and Carrie Fortman will be housed in the Division of Traffic management. Many of Carrie's ADA responsibilities will be transferred to Jim Christian.

Elizabeth asked that we reserve the State Library meeting room from 12:30 - 3:30 to allow for those who may arrive early and/or need to wait for rides afterwards.

**Individual issues.**

Ann Gazelle mentioned that her COTA ride was late today. She called and they said he would be there in 5 minutes (it was at least 15) and the driver told her he did not tell them that. Rajai's said she has waited over an hour some times. Jim O'Neil will bring this up to COTA Mainstream.

**Next meeting:** July 24, State Library of Ohio, 1:00-3:00

**Adjournment:** 2:58 PM