

COLUMBUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Minutes of the Meeting: August 28, 2014

Members present: Kathy Blair—historian, David Cameron—acting secretary, Kay Grier, Enjie Hall, Mary Hiland—chair, Karen Kostelac—vice chair, Tiffany McClain, Rajai Saleh

Members absent, excused: Wayne Cocchi--secretary, Tricia Kovacs, Elizabeth Sammons, Marlene Stewart, Sue Willis

Members absent: Ann Christopher, Jennifer Flynn, Cynthia Macintosh

Provisional members present: Katie Frederick

Staff: Rick Isbell

Ex officio: Justin Henderson, Bill Stepp (both COTA)

Guests: Don Carlock (w/Kathy), Geri Cooper (MOBILE), Ben Tyson (Easton Town Center)

CALL TO ORDER. Chair Mary Hiland called the meeting to order at 1:03.

MINUTES. Karen Kostelac moved to approve the July minutes as written (second Tiffany McClain). *APPROVED*

GUEST PRESENTER. David Cameron introduced Ben Tyson, Senior Manager of Community Relations at Easton Town Center, who spoke with us about services available for shoppers with disabilities.

Ben, who has been at Easton for 13 years, began by describing the many charitable events that take place at Easton the year around. A community room is available for meetings at no charge; call 337-2200. Cash from parking meters results in about \$17,000 given annually to charity. Easton awards eight college scholarships yearly, to date totaling over \$400,000. Three-quarters of Easton's streets are city streets. Displaying a handicap hangtag allows free parking. Free valet parking is available by completing an application available at Easton's customer services desk, across from Max & Erma's in the Easton Station Building (the indoor mall). Wheelchairs are also available from that same location.

In answer to David's query about why the Web site doesn't contain much of what's available to shoppers with disabilities, Ben replied that that was a good question and that he would look into it. He is at 750-0617 and his office is located south across the street from Abuelo's.

OLD BUSINESS.

- Kay Grier reported on the State of Ohio Functional Needs Assessment Summit that she attended in May. She said the thrust was mostly to cover broad-ranging info. In emergencies, recovery is a big consideration—e.g., housing, medical supplies, assistive technology services.

Nisonger Center has a YouTube training video for first responders on how to assist victims with disabilities. Karen asked whether we could see the video and Kay said she would contact Brad Schwartz, State Emergency Management, about arranging a viewing. As an interesting side note, Kay said that about an hour into the all-day gathering it became clear that there were no interpreters, meaning that there were no people with deafness in attendance.

- Rick Isbell said that because of internal reorganization within city agencies it is unclear who (e.g., Jim Christian, Carrie Fortman) will be available to attend our meetings. He will try to learn more.

Mary reminded us that we soon will send the Mayor our letter of support for Rick to pursue an ADA coordinator certification.

NEW BUSINESS. Kay and Rick reported that Sue Hetrick, Ex. Dir. of the Center for Disability Empowerment, is beginning to pull together plans for a 25th-anniversary celebration of the ADA in July 2015.

Rick has spoken to a city IT person, David Debalak, to come talk with us about making the city's Web site more accessible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- Mary: Paul Walker has had success in lining up a person from the airport for September.
- Rajai Saleh: Home Choice is sponsoring a conference on November 12, offering CEU, and that the organization wants to encourage more people with disabilities to attend.
- Kay: OSILC has been awarded a grant to present a two-day conference in May on assistive technology.
- Katie Frederick: American Council of the Blind of Ohio's annual conference will be October 24-26 in Cincinnati.

CENTRAL OHIO TRANSIT AUTHORITY. Justin Henderson reported that significant services changes are under consideration at COTA. Some lines may be

cut, some extended. Decisions may come as early as September but implementation would be six to nine months away. Also, COTA is studying the mini-van option for some services.

Some members noted that CBUS circulator drivers seem to be very happy in their jobs, going out of their way to be helpful.

Justin was asked whether COTA is looking into a pre-paid bus card. Justin said that it is but also that cost is a big obstacle.

CLOSING. As chair, Mary asked for the meeting to conclude with a brief discussion about the state of CACDI. To paraphrase, she acknowledged that what we're doing is good and valuable and that we collect good info. Then she asked how we are "advisory."

Kay and Katie pointed out that we inform every guest speaker more and more about disability issues, which was followed by a chorus of examples from several members referencing various presenters from the recent past. Kay reminded us of a concrete example when we were instrumental in getting the height of parking meters changed.

To follow up on this, Katie suggested inviting the neighborhood development groups to present and Karen immediately thought of Franklinton because so much development is happening there.

ADJOURNMENT. Kay moved to adjourn at 2:55 (Karen second). *APPROVED*

Submitted by:
David Cameron, Acting Secretary