



Columbus Advisory Committee on Disability Issues

### **Minutes of the meeting on March 26, 2015**

**Members Present:** Mary Hiland - Chair, Karen Kostelac - Vice Chair, Wayne Cocchi - Secretary, David Cameron, Enjie Hall, Kathy Blair, Tricia Kovacs, Kay Grier Tiffany McClain

**Provisional Members Present:** - Paul Walker, Ann Gazelle, Katie Frederick

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Flynn, Sue Willis, Scott Lissner

**Members Excused:** Marlene Stewart, Rajai Saleh, Ann Christopher

**Staff:** Rick Isbell (excused)

**Guests:** Cleve Ricksecker (Special Improvement District), Sue Hetrick, April Williams (COTA), Kelly Stephenson (COTA), Amy Hockman (COTA), Geri Cooper, Angie Hall, Jay Favuzzi

**CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS.** Mary Hiland, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** Karen moved to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Kay. Minutes approved.

### **GUEST SPEAKER.**

Introduction by Karen Kostelac. Cleve Ricksecker, Executive Director, Capital Crossroads Special Improvement Districts (SIDs)

Passed out a map of downtown Columbus and brochures for pearl market, the discovery district, and capital crossroads special improvement district. 4 SIDS in Columbus, 2 downtown, 1 in the short north and 1 in the morse road area. The university area will be developing one in about a year. Ohio law says SID can only be set for a determined amount of time as noted on the map he handed out. Every 5 years they have to go through a process to propose if a SiID should be extended and have it voted on by owners in that district and then city council. Downtown property owners (residential and business) vote to levy an assessment to provide soft services and capital improvements. Owners then fund the SID via an annual fee. COTA and the City of Columbus contribute to their budget as well. Services include: Cleaning crews who remove litter, graffiti, weeds, clean public fixtures, sidewalks, public parks and alleys. They make sure the public realm stays as clean as possible. Security ambassadors provide a safety function and patrol on foot or bicycle and are trained to call police, deal with minor legal infractions (ie, drinking), and they assist people as well around downtown including assistance for people with disabilities. They also focus on areas during snow and help clear crosswalks and ramps of snow within their service district. Depending on the district they wear red or blue clothing.

Pearl market operates in Pearl Alley, Tuesdays and Fridays, next to Rhodes tower. The SIDHelps support businesses and bring new business to downtown. SID has a web site, newsletters, email notices/downtown info. Capital improvements focus on areas that are not typically paid attention to. They helped to improve Nationwide Boulevard with median upgrades, trees, etc. Also instrumental in installing bike facilities downtown. Designed and installed a sign system for downtown with pedestrian kiosks, vehicular signage, as well as parking rate signs for statehouse and convention center. They also receive info on many other issues that occur downtown and respond as appropriate. In addition, the SID works with COTA on transit in the downtown area.

Question was asked about lack of retail downtown. There is a huge documented demand downtown for retail. Chain stores are risk adverse for locating downtown, they are not interested. No established consumer market. Only independent retailers are willing to locate downtown, much like, the short north. We really need to start over. Chain stores need affordable space in a completely prepared white box and clustered with other retail. Unfortunately there is no available space for this type of retail. Lack of on street retail parking is also an issue. Downtown space runs at \$50 Sq. Foot. Looking at micro living apartments and micro retail (smaller spaces i.e. 500 sq ft.) in locations downtown so they can be more affordable.

More information can be found at:

[www.downtowncolumbus.com/home/about-us/capital-crossroads-sid](http://www.downtowncolumbus.com/home/about-us/capital-crossroads-sid)  
or for General Inquiries: (614) 645-5133

## **OLD BUSINESS.**

Membership Update - See summary by Wayne (below the minutes).

We have an immediate need to recruit at least four (4) new members as six (6) current members will end their terms at the June meeting.

Franklinton Housing - No update. Scott was to e-mail Jennifer Flynn the name of someone to contact.

ADA Celebration - Sue Hetrick noted that Katie Frederick is joining the committee. Columbus Commons has been secured for that day's celebration event. An art show is being planned. The Dispatch turned down noting the winners of an essay contest. There is a proposal to have a reception at CSCC the night of the 22nd. Contacting exhibitors...Wayne will be helping Linda Wetters with this. Also trying to recruit sponsors for the event and for the traveling bus. Save the date cards are being drafted.

Inviting Andrew Ginther as President of City Council - Rick will be working on this.

The request should be sent to Tracy Davies at Ginthers office

We also talked about inviting mayoral candidates after the primary.

Web Site Update - No updates

ADA Coordinator certification for Rick - No update. Mary has not had any response from her letters to Mayor Coleman and City Council President Andrew Ginther.

### **COTA.**

Proposed services changes:

Requests for next day service must be made by 5:30pm.

Monday to Friday pickup times being proposed for 7am to 6PM. (Currently 90% of pickups are from 7AM to 6PM.)

Potential date for change in service is May 18th.

A public meeting regarding changes to mainstream service was held this past Monday. Public comments are open until April 23rd. Call 228-1776 press 0 (zero) for a live person to record your comments, or go to their website at [COTA.com](http://COTA.com) to comment online. Eligibility administrators base decisions on how people are capable to travel and weather forecasts. Depending on weather most are required to ride fixed route buses. They may use mainstream if weather conditions are determined to be severe, i.e., temp is above or below a certain degree or weather conditions are bad.

### **NEW BUSINESS.**

Tricia -

Public meetings being held the week of March 31 to collect input on Connect Columbus Transportation Plan - this is the city's multimodal plan to serve as the guide for future street construction.

Phase 2 of the Joyce Avenue construction project. Joyce Ave. will be one way northbound from Mach 30 thru August 14, 2015.

Public meetings to be hosted by the city of Columbus regarding plans for Fairwood Avenue Sidewalks and Moler Road sidewalks, April 16 5-6:30 p.m. at the Southeast Apostolic Mission

Kay Grier -

Handed out flyers about TechII: Technology Toward Employment:... A two day technology conference focusing on assistive technology for employment and people with disabilities, May 13-14, 2015. Conference includes an exhibit hall, break-out sessions, keynote speakers, opportunity to talk one-on-one with technology experts. Registration fee is \$150.00, though scholarships available for registration for people with disabilities. Online registration is at: <http://www.cvent.com/d/4rqmq2>

Jay Favuzzi -

Informed us about and Amputee recreational support group for veterans that is holding a shooting range event. He will send out info to all. Also, the Ohio Ice Warriors hockey team played Buffalo and won one of two games against them.

Mary Hiland mentioned a good book by Jeff Pagels entitled, Always Climb Higher. The story of his comeback from a spinal cord injury and becoming the fastest nordic skier with a disability in the world and his desire for other extreme outdoor pursuits.

**NEXT MEETING.**

Reminder that next month (April 23rd) we will meet at the State Library again.

**ADJOURNMENT. 2:30 PM**

**CACDI Current Member's Terms**

The term expiration dates for current members terms are listed below.

Per CACDI Bylaws: Members will serve a three-year term with staggered appointment dates. A maximum of six years, or two consecutive terms, of service, is permitted, after which a member must be inactive for at least one year before reapplying for membership.

Term Expires 9/30/14:

1. Ann Christopher (was reappointed)
2. Enjie Hall (was reappointed)
3. Karen Kostelac (was reappointed)
4. Kay Grier (was reappointed)
5. Rae Nutter - (no longer a member)

Term Expires 6/30/15:

1. David Cameron
2. Jennifer Flynn
3. Kathy Blair
4. Scott Lissner
5. Sue Willis
6. Wayne Cocchi

Term Expires 9/30/16:

1. Brent Simonds - (no longer a member) position needs rest of term filled with an interim member
2. Elizabeth Sammons (no longer a member) - position needs rest of term filled with an interim member
3. Marlene Stewart
4. Mary Hiland
5. Tiffany McClain
6. Rajai Saleh
7. Patricia Kovacs

Term expires 9/30/17:

1. Kay Grier
2. Karen Kostelac
3. Enjie Hall
4. Ann Christopher

Others who who sent in resumes/etc., for consideration, and have been waiting on notification of possible appointment:

Ann Gazelle, Katie Frederick, Paul Walker, Jay Favuzzi