



Columbus Advisory Committee on Disability Issues

CACDI Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2025

Meeting Information

Location: Hybrid, 1423 N High St. (Meeting Room #1)

Date & Time: January 23, 2025, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Chair Jordan Ballinger

Attendees: Pedro Mejia, Eunha Suh, Emma Strange, Zane Jones, Angie Wise, Jordan Ballinger, Nathan Grizenko, Jennie Hanna, Tricia Kovacs, Aimie Rieder, Nancy Pryor, Janae Miller, Sarah Bernholtz, Elizabeth Anthony (ASL Interpreter), Willard Smith-Hoffman (ASL Interpreter), Bob Roehm, Emiliana Morales, Belinda Spinosi

Agenda Items

1. Welcome & Introductions

1.1. Chair Jordan Ballinger called a meeting to order at 2 p.m.

2. Overview of Upcoming Meetings

2.1. The next several months of our meetings will be used to transition from an Advisory Committee into an Advisory Commission.

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- 2.2. As current, existing members, we are the selection committee and will make decisions regarding who the new Commission members will be (11 seats total)
 - 2.3. The Timeline is as follows:
 - 2.3.1. January 23rd: Finalize Application Information
 - 2.3.2. February 14th: Application Portal Open (we will focus on outreach for applicants)
 - 2.3.3. March 14th: Application Deadline
 - 2.3.4. April 24th: Review and Select Commission Recommendations
 - 2.3.5. April 28th: Submit Recommendations to Council (provide 2 months for legislative process)
 - 2.3.6. May 16th: Ensure Council Process Moving Forward
 - 2.3.7. June 14th: Deadline for Appointments
 - 2.4. The priority is to focus on these transition tasks first. There will still be time to discuss current issues in the City to continue advocating on behalf of folks regarding those challenges.

3. ADA Coordinator Update

- 3.1. City Council is in the process of moving through budget hearings (budget includes an additional full-time employee for the Department of Human Resources to handle accessibility challenges).
- 3.2. Franklin County Municipal Court reached out regarding input for best practices regarding accommodation policies and meeting those requests
- 3.3. Accommodation Policy for the City will be discussed this year amongst various stakeholders and City government entities. The goal is to codify Accommodations and how to address those. Zane has already discussed meeting with the City Attorney to obtain examples of ordinances to reference/model after. Belinda inquired about the coverage of Title 1. Zane commented that this would be up to other entities within the City; his team would be focusing on Title 2.

3.4. CACDI Transition Tasks

3.4.1. Updating the website

3.4.2. Developing the online portal for Commission applications

3.4.2.1. Discuss the criteria for a good application

3.4.2.2. Discuss broadening the search (i.e., leveraging media) and ensuring accurate representation of the diversity of the disability community.

3.4.2.3. Consider the time commitment associated with this organization.

3.4.3. Formalizing a location for the meetings

3.5. Welcome Angie Wise, City of Columbus, Full-Time ADA Coordinator!

3.5.1. Former Statewide CarFit Coordinator at Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging

3.5.2. Former Physical Therapy Assistant (informed her perspectives on accessibility)

3.5.3. Her own personal life and lived experience has also shaped her perspectives and roles throughout her career!

4. Commission Transition

4.1. Review and Approval of Application

4.1.1. Zane recommended that most portions of the application should be optional except for “First Name,” “Last Name,” “Contact Information,” and “Interest in Serving”

4.1.2. Bob asked about the requirement to be a Columbus Resident. There is no requirement that a potential commission applicant reside within the City of Columbus.

4.1.3. Pedro suggested including a section or question regarding the Intersectionality with other protected

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- classes as it is important to maximize the diversity of thought and lived experience.
- 4.1.4. A general consensus was reached that providers should be discouraged from applying and that the Commission be led by individuals with disability (or have affiliations with the disability community).
 - 4.2. Pedro offered to help to build the form for the application
 - 4.3. Accessible Form Formats should include:
 - 4.3.1. Editable PDF
 - 4.3.2. Word Doc
 - 4.3.3. Braille Large print
 - 4.4. Have Janae review the form with Screen readers
 - 4.5. Discussion was had regarding the proposed language related to providing accommodations/submitting accommodation requests. Nathan suggested not including both questions/texts on the form. Belina agreed, stating, the way it's written now is misleading. She said, "The form needs to be clear about whether we're asking about participation accommodations in general or something specific."
 - 4.6. Nathan also commented that the form on the website itself also needs to be accessible. If it doesn't meet accessibility standards, we must provide alternatives, like a PDF version in large print or Braille. The form must be as accessible as possible because this is a Disability Advisory Commission.
 - 4.7. Janae replied and said, "If you create a document in Word, it can be converted into a PDF, but not all PDFs are fillable. If you're using a PDF form, make sure it's fillable. Word documents tend to work best for accessibility across different needs."
 - 4.8. Zane promised changes to the language would be made to be more specific and also concurred multiple formats would be developed.

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- 4.9. In response to the inquiry regarding the production of a fillable PDF, Janae commented that some “fillable PDFs” are not always accessible and to be mindful of this.
 - 4.10. Zane also said he would provide contact information in case someone needs to submit the application in person.
 - 4.11. Belinda commented that accommodations for commission meetings in general, which falls under Title II, is not the same as accommodations for this form, which is more related to Title I.
 - 4.12. Everyone who is currently part of the Committee has and will be responsible for reviewing this form and agreeing on a final format. City Council will review it and provide any feedback for changes as they deem necessary.
 - 4.13. Review and Approval of Timeline
 - 4.13.1. The timeline is as follows:
 - 4.13.1.1. **February 14th:** Applications open.
 - 4.13.1.2. **March 14th:** Applications close.
 - 4.13.1.3. **April 24th:** Commission meeting dedicated to reviewing applications.
 - 4.13.1.4. **April 28th:** Submissions sent to Council.
 - 4.13.1.5. **May:** Legislative process for June 14th deadline.
 - 4.13.1.6. **June 14th:** The ordinance becomes effective.
 - 4.13.2. The name of this organization will change slightly; the word “Committee” will change to “Commission.” The full name of the Commission will be The Columbus Advisory Commission on Disability Issues (CACDI).
 - 4.13.3. Appointments to this new Commission will go through the legislative process between the months of April and May.

5. Community Issues

5.1. Traffic, Pedestrian, Road Laws Advocacy Update from Tricia

- 5.1.1. **Tricia is** a member of a federal advisory committee on traffic control devices, including pedestrian and bicycle standards. She will send an email summarizing updates from my January meeting in D.C. Additionally, she has been a part of discussions for legislation to improve pedestrian right-of-way laws.
- 5.1.2. Belinda reported that City Council and Council Member Wyche quickly worked to secure accommodations, including an assistive listening device, captioning on a back-room TV, and captioned recordings.
- 5.1.3. COTA is exploring APS (Accessible Pedestrian Signals) at bus stops and intersections, potentially incorporating GPS-powered devices. They're currently determining how to power these signals, possibly using solar panels. Updates will follow in a few months.
- 5.1.4. For those interested in pedestrian infrastructure, the Ohio LTAP Center has a webinar on the new PRO-AG guidelines available on YouTube.
- 5.1.5. The new PRO-AG guidelines address pedestrian right-of-way and bus stop accessibility. The Department of Transportation has approved it, but it's still awaiting Department of Justice approval. Any new bus stops must comply, though updates to existing ones will require additional advocacy.
- 5.1.6. COTA is discussing the implementation of raised crosswalks with beacons at roundabouts. We will continue monitoring developments.
- 5.1.7. To implement this intervention, there is a need for communication and coordination with COTA and the City to establish the appropriate infrastructure

6. Announcements

- 6.1. Next month's meeting will focus on outreach and recruitment for commission applications. March's meeting will establish selection criteria, and April's meeting will focus on finalizing appointments.

7. Adjournment

- 7.1. Adjourned at 3:30 p.m.
 - 7.2. Next Meeting: February 27, 2025 @ 2 p.m.
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Submitted By:
Nathan Grizenko, Secretary