



Columbus Advisory Committee on Disability Issues

CACDI Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2024

Meeting Information

Location: Hybrid, 96 South Grant Avenue, Columbus, OH 43215

Date & Time: July 25, 2024, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Chair Jordan Ballinger

Attendees: Jordan Ballinger, Emma Strange, Jennie Hanna, Nathan Grizenko, Bob Roehm, Zane Jones, Sarah Bernholtz, Belinda Spinosi, Tricia Kovacs, Grant Ames, Sean Bartlett, Sue Hetrick, Elisabeth Clegg, Christine Brown, Grant Ames, Nico Fuentes, Angie Wise, and Emiliana Morales.

Agenda Items

1. Welcome & Introductions
 - 1.1. Chair Jordan Ballinger called a meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

3. ADA Coordinator Update

- 3.1.** Thank you to Jennie Hanna for filling in while Zane was gone!
- 3.2.** Jennie and Zane cannot access the internet through “traditional means” nor can they receive emails through their City of Columbus emails. This is due to a cyber incident at the City of Columbus.
- 3.3.** Inquiries/Barriers/Efforts
 - 3.3.1.** Construction interference to public right of way
 - 3.3.1.1.** If you ever encounter an interference to the public right of way, you can always email/contact Zane or submit a response through 311.
 - 3.3.2.** Inquiries regarding where to find accessible housing in Columbus (2 inquiries)
 - 3.3.3.** Obstructed Sidewalks in the vicinity of Franklin County Board of Developmental Disability
 - 3.3.3.1.** Justin Goodwin manages “mobility” in the Department of Public Service (DPS)
 - 3.3.3.2.** Right now, the goal is to identify the appropriate responsible part; currently in conversation with DPS
 - 3.3.3.3.** There are different sources of funding that can then be used to make repairs.
 - 3.3.4.** Resident inquiries regarding accommodation for refuse collection (3 total inquiries); referrals/resolutions provided
 - 3.3.5.** Citizen letter submitted about scooters, assistive listening devices (for public hearings and council meetings), alternative format
 - 3.3.6.** Scooters (and other portable mobility devices)
 - 3.3.6.1.** Right now, there is an RFP for the contract management company.

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- 3.3.7. Zone-In Hearing #4 was held yesterday
 - 3.3.7.1. Discussed benefits/provisions for accessibility
 - 3.3.7.2. Changes through Zone-In changes the requirements that new or renovated structures are subject to in this new zoning code
 - 3.3.7.3. The City Attorney clarified that the revised code would not interfere with ADA standards and accessible housing
 - 3.3.7.4. CACDI has been asked to be a sounding board in the future (per Council Member Doran)
 - 3.3.8. Egress requirement questions with Columbus Division of Fire
 - 3.3.9. Permit variance for motorhomes
 - 3.3.10. Zane and Jennie have looked into the top issues/inquiries that come into their office daily. Housing, mobility, knowledge, parking, and technology issues tend to be the major general topics.

3.4. Engagement

- 3.4.1. We hope to continue engagement on the issue of remote platforms. The associated timelines and costs of various virtual platforms will need to be considered going forward
- 3.4.2. Another question to consider is how CACDI would like to move forward on codification
- 3.4.3. Department of Parks and Recreation's Audit and Transition Plan will be reviewed as well as how CACDI can provide input/feedback going forward
- 3.4.4. Meeting Tech - What works?
 - 3.4.4.1. Zane will look into the OWL camera technology

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- 3.5. Upcoming Meetings**
 - 3.5.1. CACDI Leadership Meeting with Chief of Staff Sims on July 29th
 - 3.5.2. Zone-In's Second Reading and Vote will be July 29th as well.
 - 4. Update from Emiliana Morales, Legislative Assistant, Office of Council Member Christopher L. Wyche**
 - 4.1.** The office of CM Wyche did help with open access to the elevator in City Hall. You'll be able to access floors 2 and 3.
 - 4.2.** If you know anyone who needs help getting trash collection bins to the curb or alley for collection, please let CM Wyche's office know so they can assist.
 - 4.3.** Capital budget will be passed on July 29th
 - 4.3.1. Retrofitting funding was included, so we'll be sure to update about whether or not that passes.
 - 4.3.2. It is unknown whether other orgs can tap into that funding as well. Emiliana will update us later
 - 4.4.** ADA Self-Assessment leader has transitioned out of that role, but the self-assessment will go forward.
 - 4.5.** Wyche will be working on a separate "green" zoning policy! CACDI may be part of the input for this new policy
 - 5. Old Business**
 - 5.1. CACDI Codification**
 - 5.1.1. Jordan has developed a spreadsheet that includes over a dozen large cities in the United States that have various entities in place related to improving accessibility (i.e. Office on Disability, Advisory Body on Disability, a Dedicated ADA Coordinator). Highlights of this chart were shared with CACDI members
 - 5.1.1.1. Many cities have robust systems and structures with staffs that are able to tackle key issues and provide strong recommendations for policymakers

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- 5.1.2. The Chair suggests CACDI should remain an advisory body. Also recommended the formation of an Office on Disability with a dedicated Staff and ADA coordinator to liaise with various entities within City government and an advisory board/commission.
 - 5.1.3. Many groups are called “advisory councils” or “commissions.”
 - 5.1.4. It was suggested CACDI remains an organization that remains structured within City of Columbus but moved to the Department of Neighborhoods
 - 5.1.5. We need to have funding and more authority that allows us to generate reports and be able to streamline communication of key issues through the appropriate channels.

5.1.6. What is the difference between Advisory Councils and Commissions?

- 5.1.6.1. The city structure tends to dictate language. The larger the structure of the city government, the more likely the body is called a commission.
- 5.1.6.2. The structure/title of commission is commonly used in Columbus (i.e. Neighborhood commission, women's commission, etc.)
- 5.1.6.3. An advisory approach is recommended according to Ms. Morales. Public officials must adhere to Ohio Ethics Law. If CACDI were to be an authoritative/decision-making body, we'd become a public entity.
- 5.1.6.4. Emiliana also mentioned the Civil Rights Commission's decision to become a decision-making body but quickly reverted back to an advisory body as it was difficult to manage.
- 5.1.6.5. Commissions can be applied to bodies that are strictly advisory or are decision-making entities.

5.1.7. Codification would help CACDI gain legitimacy while continuing to be flexible and free to conduct ourselves however we choose.

5.1.7.1. A concern was brought up that codification and remaining an advisory body may not help us to gain enough influence to make and implement changes later on.

5.1.7.2. Codification as a formal advisory group would allow us to make recommendations that have more legitimacy. The City would recognize this group as a legit body of members who could speak to the needs and interests of individuals with disabilities.

5.1.7.3. Codification would also allow us to develop systems for how information is relayed and how we formally interact with other City entities (i.e. asking for representation from specific departments)

5.1.8. Is mayoral appointment required as a commission?

5.1.8.1. Jordan stated other cities make recommendations for appointing members and the mayor then makes those appointments.

5.1.8.2. According to Grant Ames, we can structure the commission membership however we'd like. For example, we can require a certain portion of the membership to include people living with disabilities.

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- 5.1.9. It was recommended CACDI sits within the Department of Neighborhoods at the last meeting
 - 5.1.9.1. The reasoning for this is because there are already neighborhood commissions that are grassroots-focused.
 - 5.1.9.2. The Office on Diversity and Inclusion and the Department of Neighborhoods have been discussed as potential entities under which CACDI can sit. The Mayor's Office should also be considered.
 - 5.1.9.3. It was also discussed that including the Office of the ADA Coordinator would be inappropriate to include under the Office of Diversity and Inclusion because disability should not sit under another civil rights group.
 - 5.1.9.4. Because CACDI is so community-focused, ODI and Neighborhoods make the most sense initially.
 - 5.1.9.5. Zane also brought up a point that regardless of wherever CACDI lives, we'll need to garner buy-in
 - 5.1.9.5.1. Equity Agenda alignment would also serve the organization well in terms of garnering buy-in.
 - 5.1.10. The Mayor and Council have the final say about how CACDI lives within City Governance. We need to continue having conversations about which department/office would be best for CACDI. The Department of Neighborhoods is arguably the most "on the grounds" entity, which is why it was suggested to house our organization.

5.2. Next Action Steps

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- 5.2.1. We will continue to do an analysis and have discussions with the City Attorney's office about the codification process
 - 5.2.2. Draft the codification language
 - 5.2.3. Consider what the structure of the commission would be, including the membership structure and voting requirements
- 6. New Business
 - 6.1. Community Issues
 - 6.1.1. This will be a new portion of the meeting when members can discuss current issues and initiatives taking place in the City.
- 7. Announcements
 - 7.1. Due to time constraints, members were not asked for updates or announcements.
- 8. Adjournment
 - 8.1. Adjourned at 3:32 p.m.
 - 8.2. Next Meeting: **August 22, 2024 @ 2 p.m.**
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Submitted By:
Nathan Grizenko, Secretary