

# COLUMBUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Minutes of the meeting January 24, 2019

State Library of Ohio, Columbus

## ATTENDANCE

Tricia Kovacs, chair	member, chair
Marlene Stewart	member
Bob Roehm	member
David Cameron, co-secretary	member, co-secretary
Karen Kostelac— <i>by telephone</i>	member
Vicky Prahin— <i>by telephone</i>	member
Scott Porter, P.E., Cols. Public Services	guest presenter
Marisa Sheldon, Age-Friendly Columbus	guest
David Ellsworth, Ohio Disability & Health	guest
Phil Hanson, Cols. Public Health	guest
Zane Jones, Cols. ADA Coordinator	ex officio
Nick Popa, Cols. Public Services	ex officio

Chair Tricia Kovacs called the meeting to order at 1:03 and immediately introduced our guest presenter.

**PRESENTATION.** Considering that pedestrian accessibility in construction zones is a frequent hot topic at CACDI meetings, we welcomed Scott Porter, P.E., from the city's Department of Public Service who spoke with us at length on the subject. His guide is the Federal Highway Administration's publication titled Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. All pedestrian accessibility provisions are based on ADA requirements, such as the requirement for the path of travel to be a smooth, hard surface, and to maintain a five-foot width. Sidewalk diversions must be clearly marked and designed with the principle in mind that pedestrians will always take the shortest route. Compliant curb ramps must be available and cane rails must be present to mark boundaries for pedestrians with blindness. A protective canopy must be in place where work is being performed above the path of travel.

Scott covered many other specific aspects and offered an extensive period for questions, urging us to call 311 to report any problems.

**MINUTES.** The chair received a motion and a second to approve the December minutes as written. *APPROVED*

**NEW BUSINESS.** Tricia enumerated a long list of topics we've mentioned but not yet zeroed in on for future projects.

- Participate on the city's 2020 census committee. (Zane Jones noted that Columbus and Franklin County already have a veterans group and a disability group.)
- Participate on city's Vision Zero (toward zero traffic deaths) and Smart Columbus projects.
- For future transportation: building a multimodal trip-planning and payment system that will offer a single reloadable payment card for all forms of public transit.

Marisa Sheldon said that Age-Friendly Columbus wants to survey some buildings for accessibility. Zane remarked that his 2019 request to survey buildings was not funded and wondered whether a partnership might be possible.

Marisa also reported on an upcoming project called Safe Routes for Aging in Place that will soon be recruiting older adults in Westerville, Prairie Township, and the Near East Side. They will specifically be seeking people who use or want to use alternative methods of transportation such as biking or transit. She is a good point of contact at 614-549-7980 or [sheldon.127@osu.edu](mailto:sheldon.127@osu.edu).

**OLD BUSINESS.** Smart Columbus has not yet recontacted Tricia regarding our participation in their planning even though they have said they want their product to be accessible.

**ADA COORDINATOR.** The central Ohio veterans community has developed over 150 services offering nearly 300 programs to our veterans. When wearing his other hat, Zane acts as a clearing house to get the word out to that community. Was he suggesting something similar for people with disabilities?

He reported that the city's 24-hour television service is looking for an automated caption service because the current human service has grown too expensive. Such services exist and are reputed to be better than live captionists.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- February—Marion County Healthy Community; City of Columbus Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- March—smart phone apps for people with vision disabilities
- April? May?—Columbus State’s BlindSquare navigation system

Zane noted that in February we’ll meet at 111 N. Front St, 8th floor conference room. All other meetings this year will be at State Library.

**ADJOURNMENT.** David moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:05. *APPROVED*

Submitted by:  
David Cameron, co-secretary