

COLUMBUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Minutes of the Meeting—May 23, 2019
State Library of Ohio, 274 East First Avenue

ATTENDANCE

Deb Wood, co-chair	member
Tricia Kovacs, chair (<i>by telephone</i>)	member
Bob Roehm	member
Marlene Stewart	member
David Cameron, co-secretary	member
Zane Jones, City ADA Coordinator	ex officio
Nick Popa, City Engineer	guest
William Stepp, COTA	guest
Nancy Pryor Sully, City Council	guest
Marisa Sheldon, Age-Friendly Columbus	guest
Tom Metz	guest

COMING TO ORDER. Co-chair Deb Wood, acting in the absence of Chair Tricia Kovacs, called the meeting to order at 1:05. Her first order of business was to introduce Nick Popa, engineer in the city's Dept. of Public Service who spoke with us on Sidewalk/Bikeway/ADA Management. As a frequent CACDI guest, Nick often answers individual questions and discusses his unit's activities but this time he was the program.

Nick described and illustrated with slides at least ten major areas of responsibility, plus other duties as assigned. To begin with, he and his small staff manage and implement long-range planning for sidewalk, bikeway, and curb ramp programs within a 5-year capital improvement plan and an annual capital improvement budget. Here are some of the major areas:

- identifying and ranking locations for sidewalk and bikeway projects
- managing the citywide curb ramp program
- responding to 311 requests
- maintaining GIS (Geographic Info System) data base, which is a mapping tool to track sidewalk, bikeway, and curb ramp locations
- managing bike rack installations, from taking requests to issuing work orders

- reviewing both public and private development plans for impacts to pedestrians, cyclists, and ADA requirements
- providing engineering to the city's permit office related to private developments, specifically for sidewalks and curb ramps
- reviewing sidewalk dining leases for ADA standards about pedestrian access routes and railings
- managing the evaluation of experimental biking features like the Summit St. 2-way bike lanes
- participating in bike and walk audits to evaluate and recommend improvements

In order to carry out all these specific areas of responsibility, Nick's unit must coordinate with all the pertinent units of city government and with other projects and advisory bodies, like CACDI, to make things happen.

Columbus has just over 2,500 miles of sidewalk representing about half of what the city needs, and much of that which is in place is in disrepair. With respect to curb ramps, approximately 40% of Columbus's 15,000 intersections need ADA-compliant ramps, amounting to nearly 36,000 ramps that need to be installed. The annual budget for curb ramps barely makes a dent in those large numbers, to say nothing of new sidewalks and bikeways.

Nick followed all the above information with pictures of a small selection of his favorite service requests—a retaining wall that has fallen onto a detectable warning, a curb ramp that empties onto street paving with a two-inch height, and the like.

Altogether, this was a thoroughly fascinating and complete overview of what Nick and his people do and gave us a new appreciation for the regular access we have to him.

APRIL MINUTES. David Cameron moved to approve April's minutes as written (Marlene Stewart seconded). *APPROVED*

ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT. ADA Coordinator Zane Jones told us that he's been approved to attend the four-day national ADA symposium to be held just outside Dallas in July. David described his own attendance some years ago and described what a terrific event it is.

Zane now has the ability to edit the city's ADA Web site without having to go through the IT unit.

On another subject, he noted that Mary Beth Moore, therapeutic recreation manager with the city's Recreation and Parks Dept., coordinates recreational activities that are modified to meet the needs of people with disabilities. Marlene added that the Worthington Community Center also offers programs for people with disabilities.

Zane is looking into the fines that accrue from illegal parking in disability spaces, noting that over the last three years it amounted to about \$600,000. Could some of that be used by CACDI, he mused aloud? Further investigation is warranted.

OTHER BUSINESS. Nancy Sully told us to contact her if anyone has a problem with a 311 request for city services.

ANNOUNCEMENTS. There *will* be an ADA celebration on July 18 coordinated by The Center for Disability Empowerment. More details to come.

ADJOURNMENT. Vice-chair Deb called for a motion to adjourn at 2:50. Marlene oblig

SUBMITTED BY:
David Cameron, co-secretary