**COLUMBUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES**

Minutes of the Meeting—October 24, 2019

State Library of Ohio, 274 East First Avenue

**ATTENDANCE**

Tricia Kovacs *(by telephone)*  member, chair

Bob Roehm member

Katie White , Age-Friendly Columbus member

Marisa Sheldon , Age-Friendly Columbus member

Laura Akgerman, Ohio AgrAbility member

David Cameron member, co-secretary

Teresa Young, Generations Psychological

and Consultation Service guest

Rich Wagner, Center for Disability

Empowerment guest

Pedro Mejia, City of Cols.

Community Relations Commission guest

Nick Popa, City of Cols., engineer ex officio

Zane Jones, City of Cols., ADA Coordinator ex officio

**CALL TO ORDER.** In the absence of Chair Tricia Kovacs and the very recent resignation of Co-Chair Deb Wood, Zane called the meeting to order at 1:10. Zane also chaired the meeting.

Zane introduced our guest presenter, Pedro Mejia, from the City’s Community Relations Commission. Pedro has been with the city for a year and a half as Community Relations Coordinator. The Commission itself formed in 1998, was folded into the Department of Neighborhoods in 2016, and exists to help citizens address suspected discrimination based on an individual’s membership in any one of twelve protected classes. (This unit is distinct from the city’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion which focuses on internal city employees.) The Commission is overseen by a 23-member board.

For the complete list of protected classes and details about the Commission’s work and how to file a complaint, go to [www.columbus.gov/discrimination](http://www.columbus.gov/discrimination).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**  Marisa moved to accept August’s minutes as written (Katie seconded). *APPROVED*

**DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE’S PRESENT AND FUTURE.** Membership and monthly attendance have both dwindled over recent years. And planning for new officers—who should be voted on in December and take office in January—has not occurred for a myriad of reasons.

This conversation ranged far and wide: Should we move to a new meeting format such as bi-monthly or quarterly? David offered that quarterly carries some built-in risk in that a member who has to miss a meeting is out of the loop for half a year. Do we need an annual statement of purpose? How do we find new members? And how do we engage them?

We agreed that these subjects will be the basis for December’s meeting. Pedro Mejias, having faced some of these same issues in his own work, offered to come to the December meeting to assist in our brainstorming.

As a closer to this discussion, Zane asked who would consider serving as an officer in 2020. Katie and Marisa immediately expressed interest, to which there was general acclamation around the table. This subject will be the first order of business in December.

**OTHER BUSINESS.** Tricia asked if anyone has been to Smart Columbus Open Data Enthusiasts. SCODE is a community driven group dedicated to improving lives in Columbus through open data, technology, and education. No responses.

**ADJOURNMENT.**  Zane asked for a motion to adjourn at 2:25. Katie moved, Laura seconded. *APPROVED*

**SUBMITTED BY**

David Cameron, co-secretary

NEXT MEETING. December 5, 1:00, State Library of Ohio.

David reminded everyone that our tradition is to bring cookies to the December meeting and (his requirement) not the kind you buy in a store. If you’re not a baker, then just come and eat.