CACDI Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2023

Attendance: Sue Hetrick, Marisa Sheldon, Christine Brown, Zane Jones, Nancy Pryor Sully, Laura Akgerman, Shae Sherrick, Patricia Kovacs, Nathan Grizenko, Emma Strange, Paul Walker, Belinda Spinosi, Bob Roehm, Jordan Bollinger, Grant Ames, John Nosse, Claire Jennings, Pedro Mejia

Minutes by Claire Jennings

* At the start: unfortunately, the staff of Council Member Lourdes Barroso de Padilla was unable to attend. We will send our notes to them. (These notes are further below in these minutes.)
* **ADA Coordinator update**:
	+ Sidewalk construction: Most calls get sent to 311 on this issue, but Zane does get some calls (1-2/month). Nancy Pryor Sully also will sometimes receive calls about this issue.
		- Example: W. Third Ave., the sidewalks are in disrepair on a private development site.
	+ Housing issues
		- ADA vs. Fair Housing confusion, Zane gets calls on this more frequently (1-2/week)
		- This is around accommodation issues or inability to find housing that meets the person’s requirements. It’s a confusing topic because of competing laws.
		- Someone asked if he was getting any calls about property tax concerns, but he hasn’t had too many. There was some discussion around the Homestead Exemption, which is being used by older adults but less with general people with disabilities. It was noted that veterans are also able to use this.
		- There is also the Property Tax Assistance Program available to qualifying seniors or those with a permanent disability with one-time financial assistance. (<https://form.jotform.com/222694859548172>)
	+ Service animal questions: Zane gets calls that are general grievances or issues around them. It would be helpful to have common FAQs and a definition posted.
		- Under ADA law (more information here: <ada.gov/resources/service-animals-2010-requirements/>): 2 types of animals can be qualified: dogs and miniature horses (no breed is excluded). There is no registration for service animals and people are not required to mark animals as service animals. It is just required that the animal have training around supporting the person.
			* Two questions that people are allowed to ask around the service animal: 1. Is this animal trained to perform a task related to a disability? 2. What is that task? (Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.)
		- Paul Walker has personal experience with service animals. From his perspective, the advantage of a horse is that it has a longer lifespan, and dogs only have about 10 years of working time.
			* His prime issues have arisen around taxis and rideshare programs (like Uber or Lyft). It has gotten better, but it is not perfect with people’s understandings of what is allowed. There have been some issues with airlines, he thinks it is because more people are flying with pets and it confuses the issue with service animals.
			* He also had a question in regard to service animals and Airbnb’s. Zane would also like clarification here and he will do some research and share what he finds.
* **Large Format Changing Tables update:** the Ohio Business Code met the week of this meeting, but the outcome was not known yet.
* **Therapeutic Air Pistol:** Zane shared that the season was being extended by 3 more weeks through Recreation and Parks.
	+ It is part of the programs through adaptive sports at the Franklin Park Adventure Center.
	+ Air pistols are not considered a firearm.
* **Facilitated conversation to be shared with Council Member Lourdes Barroso de Padilla’s staff**
	+ Belinda Spinosi prepared a document to be shared with the Council member and her staff. It is attached.
	+ Shae Sherrick: There is a need for a Community Resource Packet or list for people with disabilities.
		- It could include information for people trying to get disability status set up, scorecards for businesses around accommodations, etc.
	+ Jordan Bollinger: Columbus has an opportunity to be seen as an inclusive city. There could be employee supportive services; more information/support for students as they transition from high school after graduation; Columbus Promise could be expanded or be more inclusive of students with disabilities.
	+ Emma Strange: Columbus needs to improve bus stop and sidewalk integration.
	+ Sue Hetrick: There needs to be more discussion around affordable accessible housing. Center for Disability Empowerment had over a hundred calls last year on this topic.
		- There was a tool created by a Toledo City Council member that Sue will share.
	+ Nathan Grizenko invited the group to participate in part of his capstone project. A walk audit in Dublin on April 7 at 10am.
	+ Spinal Cord Injury Resource Fair taking place Sunday 3/26 and is free from 1-6 at the Adventure Center in Franklin Park.
	+ Columbus Education Association is takin up Special Ed as an issue.