

**LOUISVILLE METRO GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MEETING MINUTES
October 4th, 2021
Virtual (WebEx)**

MEMBERS PRESENT (via Webex):

Alex Scholtz
Dia Erpenbeck
Jon Pilbean
Verna Goately
Amy Verst
David Marchal
Joi McAtee
David Allgood
Sarah Teeters
Alli Woosley
Michael Meeks (interim Chief of Equity)
Steve Hendrix
Scott Reed-D16

Community Members Present

Larry Sloan
Regina Ostertag
Phoebe Brown-Kentuckian Girl Scout
Chuck Rogers

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 4:00PM by Alex

II. INTRODUCTIONS

III. COMMISSION APPOINTEE UPDATES

- a. BJ Levis will be rolling off of the commission in December 2021. Alex's term is up in December 2021.
- b. One appointee has attended less than half of the meetings, has not responded to recent communications and has been absent for 6 months. Commission will need to discuss if this member needs to be dropped/replaced.
 - i. Commission agreed to send this member a letter as a last attempt at communication, wait until next month's meeting to vote.
- c. The commission will be taking applications for any open positions starting in November 2021.

IV. **PHOEBE BROWN (KENTUCKIAN GIRL SCOUTS-GOLD AWARD PROJECT)**

- a. Gold award- a project that addresses a community issue in a sustainable way. Has to be realistic and self-sustaining.
- b. Phoebe's project focuses on accessibility in nature. Providing a directory of trails and outdoor spaces that are accessible to all citizens: bridging the gap between the outdoors and Kentuckians with disabilities.
- c. Focused on the 7 Principals of universal design; highlighting the locations that have accessibility in mind, not just paved paths.
- d. Website will feature locations, photos, maps, image descriptions and accessibility features.
- e. The Commission commended Phoebe for her work and will provide her with local contacts to Olmstead Parks and Lou Metro Parks and Rec to aid in her project.
- f. Phoebe will present to the Commission once her project is in the final stage.

V. **SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- a. **Transportation (Provided by Dia)**- Met on Aug 27 and Sept 29th. Questions were formulated for Carrie Butler (TARC Executive Dir). Nicole George D21 will take questions to monthly meeting with Carrie. Current RFP process/Contract is in place until 2025, Transportation sub-committee would like to encourage TARC to open this back up to other transportation companies. Had asked for an investigation into TARC, but that was stopped.
 - i. Councilman Reed would like to know why investigation request was stopped. Alex asked Michael Meeks to provide clarity. Mr. Meeks-By-laws state this commission is an advisory committee for the Mayor and Metro Council.
 - ii. Councilman Reed states that his goal was to request that the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee (a part of Metro Council) do the investigation based on our request.
 - iii. Nicole George D21 will meet with Carrie Butler on October 16th to get Transportation Sub-Committee questions answered
 - iv. Regina O has been contacting TARC requesting open records. She has been unsuccessful so far.
 - v. Decision was made to vote at next month's commission meeting on two items 1) contact county attorney for guidance on an investigation 2) in favor or not of requesting the investigation
 - vi. Note: it is important that all voting members be in attendance for the November meeting
- b. **Housing & Visitability (Provided by Joi)** – No new updates. Reiterated difficulties that citizens are facing with housing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Make sure were are advocating for affordable housing that is also accessible.
 - i. David A noted potential federal funding could be put towards affordable accessible housing. Current options are limited to West and South Louisville only. Suggested bringing home building companies to the discussion table. They could make most new builds accessible by widening hallways, creating larger turning radius in bathrooms and lowering thresholds to make more accessible housing options.
 - ii. Councilman Reed stated he is on a committee tasked with allocating funds for housing, information is going out soon and any recommendations need to be delivered soon.
- c. **Employment (Provided by Alex)**-Did not meet in August. Alex will reach out to sub-committee members to set up their next meeting.

- d. **Public Spaces/Events (Provided by Jon)**-Met on August 27th. Discussed accessibility of upcoming large public events in Louisville. BJ reached out to Marty S. at Louisville Metro. Goal to plan an annual ADA event here in Louisville.
- e. **Education & Awareness (Provided by Amy)**-No updates to share.

VI. NEW BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Alex- Noted that recent article highlighted a public fitness facility that has adaptive equipment. He will do more research to find out where, and who is involved with the hope they can come speak to the commission.

VII. NEXT Meeting

Proposed next meeting to be held Monday, November 1st, 2021 from 4:00pm-5:00pm via Webex Virtual Platform.

All future meetings to be held on the first Monday of each month from 4:00pm-5:00pm. Meetings will continue to be held via Virtual Platform and recorded until public health lifts restrictions on public gatherings.