

## **DAGWould?**

### **Board Meeting Minutes January 16, 2019 Karns Middle School 2925 Gray Hendrix Road**

#### 1. Welcome

Cindy Pionke, Strategic Facilities Engineer/ADA 504 Coordinator for Knox County, called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. She recognized and thanked DAGWould? members who were present for the meeting: Tim Adams, Anna Bass, Mark Brogan, and Shazi Ahmad.

#### 2. Approval of November Minutes

#### 3. Distribution of 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Save the Date Postcards

- a. Help spread the word of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA by distributing postcards to the Knox County community.
- b. Cindy sent 120 cards to federal and state representatives in Tennessee and DC with a personal note, "This will be an epic event!" She is also finalizing a letter for support.
- c. In order to avoid overlapping, please inform Cindy who in the community DAGWould? members plan on distributing these cards to.

#### 4. Distribution of Communication Cards

- a. Help distribute these cards to those in the community who might benefit from their usage.
- b. These violation cards are to help law enforcement officers when interacting with individuals with hearing disabilities.
- c. Upcoming training session in the works for our law enforcement officers.

5. Discussion with Election Commission Staff on Polling Place Accessibility

- a. Cliff Rogers, the Administrator of Elections, and Chris Davis, the Assistant Administrator of Elections joined the DAG Would? Committee for this meeting and discussed various aspects of polling place accessibility.
- b. The Commission's statutory duty with regards to ensuring polling place accessibility:
  - i. Notice
  - ii. Help to make voting better.
- c. Notice will be in the upcoming newspaper for accessible polling concerns.
- d. Most polling locations were built pre-ADA so there are no easy fixes to those particular locations. Instead, the Commission has tried to move polling locations and/or encourage early voting.
- e. Early voting has seen a reduction in the number of complaints.
- f. There are 79 voting locations and the most common accessibility complaint has to do with something that cannot be easily fixed: the slope/incline of parking and/or entranceways.
- g. The Commission would prefer to get out of using these inaccessible locations. However, if there are issues that can be corrected, they need to be informed of these in advance of elections, in order to plan and help make other arrangements.
- h. The local Commission board visits every polling place for the deaf and hearing impaired and suggests this should be done at the state level to ensure the process is uniform in all counties.
- i. 6000 active voters per precinct is the goal.
- j. Due to those questioning voting integrity, Knox County is moving towards paper ballots.

6. Tour of Karns Middle School

7. Set Next Meeting Location

- a. February 20, 2020 at the new Senior Center in west Knoxville.

