

**Council for Community Accessibility
Meeting Notes for March 25, 2024, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

The hybrid meeting was opened at 4:00 p.m. by Lesley Davis.

Members: Lesley Davis, Chris Jackson, Karin Willison,, Marche Daughtery, Penni Sims, Helen Caves, Martin Homan, John Brady, Deborah Myerson, Nick Philbeck and Linda Crawford.
City Staff: Michael Shermis, Annabelle Vosmeier

Minutes: February minutes were accepted as printed and distributed.

Financial Report: Michael reported a balance of \$341.29.

Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach: Penni explained that the Stone Belt's sponsored "Meet the Mayor" will be a hybrid meeting, but asked Council members to encourage people to attend in person. Stone Belt is encouraging their clients to attend. A number of possible question topics were discussed, with Deborah committing to ask about Hopewell project's providing housing that follows a universal design and accommodation for special needs. Discussion on other question topics included affordable and accessible housing for both those receiving and giving care, shortage of professional staff, keeping sidewalks free from scooters, issuing notifications of areas under construction, obstacles created by fencing areas under construction, obstruction by trash receptacles. Michael suggested questions related to the Accessible Transportation and Mobility Principles: transportation, parking, curb cuts, etc.

Report from the City: Lesley and Michael will represent the CCA at the MCCSC Transition Fair to be held on April 1st, 5:00-7:30 pm at Bloomington High School North.

On April 12, from 1:00 to 6:00 pm, Stonebelt is sponsoring an event that showcases what is available in the Bloomington community for people with disabilities. Karin said she would be able to attend as a representative from the CCA.

Marche reminded Council members of the Global Studies Graduate Fair to be held on April 2nd from 4:00-6:00 pm.

The Engineering Training event will be held on May 1st from 10:00-1:30. Michael is continuing to search for an individual with low vision to take part in this event.

Because of Memorial Day and a conflict, the CCA will not meet in May.

New Accessibility Concerns: Following up on a concern that the sidewalks along a portion of 17th Street were inaccessible because of cable installation, Michael found that the situation had already been resolved.

Monroe County History Center has requested another accessible parking space to be closer to their building. As this change in accessible parking would mean that it would be mid block (not compliant) and require exiting a vehicle into traffic, Michael intends to contact the city's Engineering Department.

The question of responsibility for the repair of sidewalks in front of businesses was discussed. It is the owner's responsibility to maintain the sidewalk, but occasionally, if reported, its repair might be covered by a grant.

Committee Reports:

- A. Accessibility: Four surveys were completed in the last month: The parking lot at Gable's Bagels does not meet ADA specifications, but the landlord of the shopping property will be contacted about this situation. Chow Bar has some violations and Faith Lutheran Church had some questions about installing accessible doors. The new restaurant, Riviera Maya, replacing Golden Corral, will be issued a decal.
Chris reported that two people have been trained as surveyors.
Michael is consulting with Parks & Rec Operations on Twin Lakes, Switchyard Park, Cascade Park, Baneker and Frank Southern Center to explore options for installing accessible doors.
- B. Transportation and Mobility: The committee has submitted a proposal for an AARP grant of \$20,000 that would fund the survey and expects a response within the next month. The survey would focus on the need for Hopewell to provide increased accessibility. The committee is also working with the School of Public Health on a shared proposal. The Sudbury development (located off of Weimer Road) proposal is still in the zoning process, but with the number of planned dwellings in the development, more available transportation will be required. It was mentioned that a transit system should be developed alongside the development.
- C. Activities and Events: A grant proposal has been submitted to Tri Kappa Alpha for funding for the Gather 'round the Table to be held in the fall, The ADA Birthday Celebration will be held on July 27. With the event producing the biggest turnout ever last year, it is anticipated there will be an increase in the number of participating organizations this year.
- D. MALL: The large mobility items currently stored at Karin's house will be moved to the First Christian Church in April. Space at the church is being rented for a six-month trial period. The Red Cross will provide some volunteers to assist moving the items. Karin has suggested early afternoon on April 13th as a target date for the move.
Karin modeled a purple shirt with the MALL logo imprinted in white and will look into having more made.

Public Comment: From May 3rd to May 30th, large panels will provide information about Fair Housing practices in Southern Indiana with Bloomington specifics. It was noted that the highest rates of violations in housing practices involve people with disabilities.

Report from the Chair: Lesley announced that the City Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27th with an approximate time somewhere between 7:15 and 8:00 for the Council on Community Accessibility's presentation. In the ten-minute period of presentation, Lesley, Karin, Deborah, and Michael will explain what the Council is and its purpose, what the Council does, as well as mention MALL and inquire how people with disabilities can be included in decision-making.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary