

**Council for Community Accessibility
Meeting Notes for April 29, 2024, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

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

Members: Lesley Davis, Chris Jackson, Karin Willison,, Marche Daughtery, Martin Homan, Deborah Myerson, Nick Philbeck, Casey Guarino, Rachel Sargent, Carly Dixon, Shelley Strimaiti, Alyssa Cogwell, Hailey Spencer, and Linda Crawford.

City Staff: Michael Shermis, Annabelle Vosmeier

Guest: Kate Rosenbarger

Minutes: March minutes were accepted as printed and distributed.

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

Guest Presentation: Councilpersosn Kate Rosenbarger provided Council members with information about historical designation versus accessibility with attention to the property at 209 South Dunn Street. The fieldstone sidewalk has a historic designation. In order to make the sidewalk accessible, the current sidewalk would need to be removed and replaced. Kate said she is currently checking with Indiana Landmarks and the State offices to determine if there is a process for removing the designation. Other non-accessible areas with historical ties in the city include the sidewalk at 4th and Jackson, some WPA sidewalks, the Buskirk-Chumley theater (railings are not removable).

Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach: There is a Bloomington Transit support group that meets monthly, both in person and by hybrid. BT Access is working to provide greater access for those needing the services of BT Access.

Report from the City:

Planning for the Engineering Training event is all ready to roll out on May 1st. Participants in the training include persons with various disabilities, as well as a representative from Bloomington Transit, three people from the city's Public Works department, one from the Utilities department, and two from the Planning department. There was a question raised about the bus islands at 3rd Street which are not easy to use when accessibility is a concern.

Michael, Lesley, and maybe MarChe, will meet with Eliza Brader, from the IT department to discuss Digital Equity Training and Funding. As the Monroe County Public Library is involved with this concern as well, Chris, or an MCPL representative, will attend this meeting, too. Hailey mentioned that there are resources available for teaching how to use the digital technology and a grant for funding has been submitted.

Rachel, from Planning & Transportation, is looking for volunteers to attend the May 15 meeting concerning questions arising from the federal transportation legislation that affects the funding of transportation systems operating within Monroe County.

New Accessibility Concerns: Crosswalk lights are not currently working at 3rd and Madison and also at the southeast corner of Kirkwood and Walnut.

City Hall and the MCPL do not have Braille signage for all the rooms in the buildings. This is a concern as all public rooms are supposed to have these. The Southwest library will be surveyed for signage before it reopens.

Trash receptacles cause accessibility difficulties on trash pick-up days if they obstruct an open passage. There have been discussion about trash receptacles being placed in designated places to prevent this problem from occurring. But those discussions happened with the Innovations Director who is no longer at the City.

Committee Reports:

- A. Accessibility: As only one new survey had been completed in the past month, Chris said that April's committee meeting was canceled. Two additional surveys were submitted today and will be evaluated at the June meeting. Funds for more in-depth accessible software is being sought.
- B. Transportation and Mobility: Deborah reported that the new department director of Planning and Transportation, David Hittle, attended their last meeting. It is the intention of the committee to invite other department heads to their meetings. The committee is seeking a grant, through AARP, to conduct a Housing and Transportation survey.
- C. Activities and Events: The committee is requesting that organizations which have expressed an interest in participating in the ADA Birthday Celebration make a commitment to participate on July 27th. Planning for the Gather 'Round the Table event is still in its early stages.
- D. MALL: The large mobility items that were stored at Karin's house have been moved to the First Christian Church. The committee commented that this is a good location for the larger items. MALL will be represented at the Senior Exposition in May. Plans are in the works to include an inventory of the larger items on the MALL website; shirts with the MALL logo for sale will also be advertised.

Public Comment: Hailey suggested doing an assessment to determine how technology can be used to increase accessibility. It was noted that MCCSC doesn't include captioning on televised school board meetings.

Report from the Chair: Lesley shared with Council members that she will be leaving her present position to work for AccessAble, which provides clients with information on accessibility in various cities.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary