

**Council for Community Accessibility
Meeting Notes for June 24, 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, Casey Guarino, Carly Dixon, Shelley Strimaiti, Haley Spencer, Penni Sims, Susan Seizer and Linda Crawford.

City Staff: Michael Shermis, Annabelle Vosmeier

Guest: Tim Street, Director, Parks and Rec

Minutes: April minutes were accepted as printed and distributed.

Financial Report: Michael reported a balance of \$315.14; clipboards for surveyors and ADA code sheets for builders were purchased.

Guest Presentation: Tim Street, Director, Parks and Rec provided an update on the expenditures that were delayed because of the pandemic. As of the present, \$600,000 has been spent on accessibility issues to purchase a new mini-bus, to install automatic door openers in various parks, to install lift chairs at Bryan and Mills pools, to make various improvements at the Building Trades Park, to purchase an all-terrain wheel chair and accessible golfcart, to make repairs in concrete at the Winslow Ports concession areas, to provide an accessible walkway to the new shelter at the RCA Park, to improve the gardens and to provide tactile maps of the parks, (starting at Switchyard Park).

Tim mentioned that the pools, constructed during the 1957-1965 years, need reinvestment and the playgrounds need improvement as well.

Hearing on the Transportation Plan will be held on July 22nd from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.

Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach: Penni announced that the next Stone Belt advocacy event will most likely focus on getting out the vote with the emphasis on joy in the midst of negativity.

Shelley announced that there is a new Paratransit app. Training is to follow with the training being split between in the office and outside.

Chris said that the Southwest branch of the library is to open on July 1st. The library has been surveyed for accessibility, but the path of travel to the amphitheater is not accessible at this time. The downtown library parking lot has been restriped, but not according to ADA regulations. A follow-up is to take place. It was noted that two different companies that do striping do not adhere to ADA guidelines.

Transition Plan: The ADA transition plan will be presented at three public hearings with feedback being sent to Michael. The self-evaluation plan addresses public accessibility in Parks and Rec, Transportation and Mobility, Utilities (sidewalks). The plan is designed to determine what areas need

attention. Questions which are tailored for each city department will be developed by the CCA and used in interviewing heads of the departments. After a final review, the transition plan will go to the mayor and then the City Council.

New Accessibility Concerns: Crosswalk lights which are still not currently working at 3rd and Madison will be repaired as soon as the necessary part arrives. The crosswalk light at the southwest corner of Second and Walker Streets, which was reported as not working, seems to be working correctly now.

Committee Reports:

- A. Accessibility: Out of nine completed surveys, the Brightside Café was awarded a decal. Of the remaining businesses, some have easily remedied infractions. The committee is looking into new survey software. Chris was pleased to report the addition of several new surveyors.
- B. Transportation and Mobility: The Principles of Transportation and Mobility were adopted into the city's comprehensive plan. The committee will be notified sometime in August if they are awarded a grant to conduct a Housing and Transportation survey.
- C. Activities and Events: The ADA anniversary has been moved to Saturday, August 3rd. Volunteers are needed for this event—please let Michael know if you can help. Currently there is room for 16-17 booths outside.
Gather Round the Table will be held on October 28th. Michael has sent out letters seeking donations. If the Trailblazer Award is received, the event could be held at the convention center. Otherwise, Switchyard Park is a possible site for the event. Possible theme for this year's event is housing and transportation with focus on the Hopewell Neighborhood.
- D. MALL: The committee received a Tri Kappa grant and are now seeking a digital equity grant. Current needs for the mobility library include a manual wheelchair and electric chargers for electric wheelchairs. The library has an overabundant supply of crutches. The committee encourages the council members to continue referring people who need mobility items to MALL.

Public Comment: Annabelle, responding to Susan Seizer's survey of the space provided at the Spencer Pride event, and as a member of the Fundraising Committee of Spencer Pride, reported that the organization has been awarded a grant to improve accessibility at the October Pride event.

Report from the Chair: Lesley and Michael attended the National ADA Symposium in Minneapolis. The event included workshop sessions on transition plans, additions to existing buildings, responsibilities and opportunities for ADA coordinators, including communication. They made lots of contacts as well!

There will be no meeting in July.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary