

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

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

Members present: Lesley Davis, Chris Jackson, Karin Willison, Casey Guarino, Marche Daughtery, Nick Philbeck, Charlotte Lee, Zoe Waters, Martin Homan, Jack Forrest, Carly Dixon, Shelley Strimaiti, and Linda Crawford.

City Staff: Michael Shermis, Annabelle Vosmeier, CCA Assistant, Rebecca Swift, Operations Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Minutes: Lesley moved and Karin seconded that the August minutes be accepted as printed and distributed.

Financial Report: Michael reported a balance of \$1,545.14; this includes a donation of \$500 for the Gather 'Round the Table event to be held later this fall with an additional \$500 donation pending. It is estimated that catering and interpreters' expenses will be approximately \$1800.

Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach: Carly reported that SICIL is working on its website. When completed, the website will offer videos on cooking, shopping, laundry and other items.

Shelly reported that BT's next week's virtual meeting will address complaints and other questions.

Report from the City:

- The ADA transition plan is soon to leave the mayor's office and be sent to City Council for final approval.
- A drawing for the November 16th Blind Boys Concert at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater will be held after the September CCA meeting. Attendees at either or both the August and September CCA meetings are eligible for the drawing.
- The Accessible and Inclusive Events Checklist will be sent to city departments that conduct a certain number of events as well as other groups that use city resources within the city. The CCA received the suggestion that in cases where an automatic door opener is not available, the door be propped open and that venue layouts be available to the organizations planning the events. Lesley suggested that sources of interpreters could be listed in the resource category.
- As the Closed Captioning Ordinance goes into effect on January 1, 2025, brochures have been created to explain the ordinance and its compliance. Volunteers are needed to distribute this brochure to either the owner or manager of the various places of businesses where closed captioning is to be used. The Chamber of Commerce will also provide information on this. A suggestion was made to seek AARP's help on how to distribute the information.

- Rebecca Swift provided a comprehensive power point presentation on using the OuterSpatial app which was launched in 2021, making Bloomington the first city in Indiana to make use of the app. Rebecca explained that she is working to make the descriptions of the city's parks and recreation areas precise and thus is continuing to update the accessibility descriptions. This app is free and can be used outside of Bloomington. No account is needed and the phone recognizes one's location when logging on.

New Accessibility Concerns from Members/Visitors: A dumpster placed over the curb cut at the apartments at 1211 W. Second Street makes accessibility impossible. Michael will look into this and stress that this situation must be corrected to be compliant with the Human Rights Ordinance. Cars are often parked across the sidewalk at the corner of Third and Walnut inhibiting accessibility.

Zoe asked if there is a resource for interpreters that she could provide for the ASL teacher at Bloomington North. An interpreter is needed for October 25-27; Carly offered to provide her list of interpreters.

Public Comment: Annabelle reported that the committee organizing the Spencer Pride Fest has put a lot of work into making the event accessible, including accessible shuttle transportation, restrooms, ramps, and with more space between the booths.

Report from the Chair: A "Living Well with Dementia" workshop will be presented on October 30 at Sherwood Christian Church from 10-3. CCA will participate in sharing their resources; Lesley and Linda will share the responsibility of representing CCA.

Committee Reports:

- A. Accessibility: Surveyors will use a new app when surveying places of businesses for ADA decal awarding. Annabelle and Michael are working to customize it for CCA's purposes. It is more specific and professional as well as easier to use.
- B. Transportation and Mobility: The committee will meet on October 8th at 4:00 pm on Zoom with BT Access riders. (This is a quarterly joint meeting with the Transportation and Mobility Committee and the BT Access.)
- C. Activities and Events: There will be no October meeting as Gather Round the Table will be held on November 4th at The Mill from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Registration will be available through the monthly newsletter. Students from the Project School will be available to assist. Dinner will be followed by a panel discussion and then individual table discussions.
- D. MALL: MALL will have a booth at the Spencer Pride Fest. Members of Blooming Foods are encouraged to cast a vote for MALL, either in person or on-line through October 25. MALL has renewed their lease at the church for an additional six months. There is a need for non-folding power wheelchairs that can be loaned.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary