

## Council for Community Accessibility

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, Tom Hill, Susan Seizer, Deborah Myerson, Eric Ost, and Linda Crawford

City Staff: Michael Shermis, Annabelle Vosmeier, CCA Assistant, Jane Kupersmith, Director, Department of Economic and Sustainable Development, Mike Stewart, City of Bloomington, Engineering Department

**Minutes:** The November, 2024 minutes accepted as printed and distributed.

**Annual Report:** A hard copy of the annual report was distributed to members. The report was also included in the email sent prior to the meeting.

**Report from the City:** Michael reported that more city departments are asking for advice in concerns of accessibility.

The City Council is discussing the practice of closing down Kirkwood Avenue to cars during the summer which will affect accessibility. Jane provided the history of how the Kirkwood Closure was developed during 2021-2023 when the virus limited dining out. In 2024, construction prohibited closure. The plan for 2025 is to extend the period of closure from Walnut Street to the Sample Gates. It was noted that one doesn't need to be a consumer to gain access to this closed area. The loss of four accessible parking spaces will necessitate finding replacements on surrounding block faces. (Van accessible spaces that are close are difficult to find.) BT Access would be unable to get to businesses in the blocks that are closed down. But the north/south streets will be open, so no drop-offs will be more than a half block away and the Monroe County Public Library will still be able to be accessed via the back side parking lot. The question of whether golf carts be used during events in this area was raised.

Questions about the tactile map in Switchyard Park—include all paths or just the accessible paths? It was decided that all paths should be included on the map, but label paths that are not to be used by park attendees.

There were concerns about how snow removal is handled in the city. After a snowfall, priority paths for snow removal are targeted. It was noted that in parking lots and other spaces, it appeared that the snow was plowed into accessible parking spaces. The Endwright Center has requested a talk about snow-buddies and the snow removal policies. Members were reminded to use the uReport method to communicate areas of concern or violation and create a public record of issues.

CATS has requested to record CCA meetings. The consensus was not to record meetings at this time as meetings can be attended by Zoom and minutes are emailed.

Planning & Transportation is going to apply for a grant on public safety to educate children and community members that will have a component on accessibility. Michael asked folks to consider generating ideas for the “top ten things to know about community accessibility” that could be used in applying for the grant.

**Brainstorming 2025 Goals:**

A. 1-10 Year Suggestions

- Extend BT Access outside Bloomington
- Peer-to-peer counseling in place of/addition to Voc Rehab
- Uber with wheelchair accessibility
- CCA promote hiring people with disabilities
- Get more people involved with CCA by meeting in places other than City Hall or holding traveling CCA meetings
- Promote affordable housing
- Ambulance transport wheelchairs along with patients using wheelchairs
- Additional codifying ADA inspections of new construction
- Eliminate 24-hour sign up to BT Access
- Continue efforts to improve parking lot striping

Disability awareness/accessibility training course development, (the Fire Department has agreed to training), speakers for CCA meetings, and the Downtown Madison Accessibility efforts will be discussed at the February meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Crawford, Secretary