

Council for Community Accessibility February 24, 2025

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, Nic Narducci, Adam Hamel, Colman Kavgian, Susan Seizer, Eric Ost, Martin Homan, and Linda Crawford

City Staff: Michael Shermis, Annabelle Vosmeier

Minutes: The January, 2025 minutes were accepted as printed and distributed.

Financial Report: There has been no change--\$191.80.

Annual Report: A hard copy of the annual report has been sent to the department chair and then will be sent on the City Council. At the Council's monthly meeting, Lesley will present the CCA year's accomplishments with Michael present to answer any questions that are on the staff side.

Report from the City: The May monthly CCA meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28 instead of the normal monthly schedule. Time (4:00-5:30) and place (Allison Room--#225) as usual.

A couple volunteers are needed for the Transition/Community Fair to be held on April 1 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at Bloomington High School South.

Stone Belt is planning a 90-minute presentation on self-advocacy and has requested a speaker to talk about the CCA's work. No date for the event has been set yet; Kristin and Martin requested more information.

Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach: Chris said the Southwest branch of the MCPL is addressing accessibility parking in the underground garage and access to the amphitheater. When these items are deemed accessible, the branch will be in full ADA compliance.

New Accessibility Concerns from Members/Visitors: Coleman brought to the Council's attention that her accessible home is to be placed on the market and wished to make CCA members aware.

The kitchen has been modified so that it is completely accessible.

Nic related using the U Report method to address a snow removal problem on February 9th. There was a delay in response as no action was taken until February 21st. A member from the Public Works department will be present at the April meeting; members are encouraged to organize questions and constructive suggestions about this concern prior to this meeting.

Committee/Partner Reports:

Accessibility Committee: Chris said the committee is reviewing the output from the new survey tool (BlueDAG) which includes photos to help business owners comply with accessibility standards.

Transportation and Mobility Committee: The next Bloomington Transit meeting will focus on discussion of Paratransit transportation. The Bike/Ped, Traffic, and parking commissions in the Planning and Transportation Department have been reorganized into one Transportation Commission with nine members. They have requested a CCA member to fill a seat on the committee. Ryan Robling will explain at the March CCA meeting about the new commission organization and request for volunteers to fill out an application with the Mayor being provided three members from which to choose.

Activities and Events Committee: The next Breaking Down the Barriers event will be held in 2026. The ADA celebration will be held on August 2, 2026 at the Farmer's Market. Despite the heat and humidity of the season, it is necessary for the CCA to be visible!

MALL: Susan reported that MALL has received two significant donations: \$5500 from the Beth Shalom Tzedakah committee and also named the recipient of 100% of proceeds from all sales during the present year from PerSisterhood (women's crafting collective).

MALL is always on the lookout for storage space, free or inexpensive.

Susan also said there is an app for Parking Mobility which offers a way to report violations of accessible parking spaces.

Planning (Continued): Discussion of the five areas—Transportation, Accessibility/ADA Standards, Community Connections, Employment, and Housing—is shown in each category.

Transportation: Expanding the BT Access to include routes outside of the city will not occur quickly; this should become a 5-year advocacy goal. Martin and Lesley know of accessible uber drivers who can be utilized; a list of such drivers can be created and made available. In regard to abuse of the accessible parking spaces, a course such as that given in Texas might be considered for use in Bloomington. Violation of accessible parking in Texas offers offenders the opportunity to attend a class in accessible parking etiquette in place of paying a fine,

Accessibility/ADA Standards: To encourage Bloomington hospitality businesses to achieve better-than-ADA standards, it would be advantageous to look at hotel chains that are good at providing accessibility. It was suggested to look to Jane Kupersmith for discussion with the city and to Phil Stafford as a resource for new construction. Would the Bureau of Motor Vehicles support a Parking app? Prior to establishing stricter standards, discussion of what those standards include should occur. The Snow Removal procedures will continue to be observed.

Community Connections: In addition to the regular monthly CCA meetings, outreach teams for community engagement could be recruited to meet in various locations throughout the community. MCPL might host a traveling CCA meeting as they would have the equipment to zoom the meeting. There is a need for continued Disability Awareness training. The Fire department has requested this training and has requested involvement with CCA members; Lesley, Karin and Casey have volunteered.

Employment: It was suggested that the CCA meet with HR managers, hold workshops to determine what employers desire help with, what people are looking for and how connections can be made to help with meeting those needs. It was suggested that HR departments in places such as the City of Bloomington, IU, Cook, Baxter, MCPL, Goodwill, etc. might share what their hiring policies include.

Housing: The CCA will continue to check on Hopewell's progress and HAND's work to maintain their involvement with affordable and accessible housing.

There was also continuing discussion on the 504 Advocacy issue. Seventeen states, including Indiana, are suing the federal government in an effort to declare the 1973 law unconstitutional. Their success would allow discrimination for persons with disabilities. People are encouraged to contact Attorney General Todd Rokita and demand that he withdraw Indiana from this lawsuit. It is essential that people raise awareness about 504 lawsuit and other anti-accessibility endeavors.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary