

February 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: David Carter, Susan Russ, Rachel Roby, Lucy Schaich, Nick Philbeck, Vicki Pappas, Katie Herron, David Smith, Kemberly Dailey Johnson, Lisa Connolly and Linda Crawford.

Minutes and Financial Report: January minutes were accepted as printed.

Lucy said we are still waiting for Bell Trace to submit their bill for the 2013 Awards Ceremony. A payment of \$200 was made to Craig Brenner for the Bloomington Blues and Boogie Woogie Festival. Balance is \$5,679.46.

Media: There was an article in the Herald-Times listing restaurants that are part of the Bloomington Independent Restaurant Association. Council members commented that at least 25% of those restaurants listed are not accessible. It was suggested that the remainder of the restaurants be surveyed and letters sent to the owners with suggestions for making those places accessible. Vicki volunteered to write to BIRA and offer to work with the association on accessibility concerns.

Guest Presentation: There was no guest presentation this month.

Reports from the City: Beverly Calendar-Anderson is following up on David's incident at IMA. It was suggested that perhaps fire officials be invited to make a presentation at a future CCA meeting. Vicki has completed the calendar of events for March and April which will go out as a press release. Lucy has ordered materials for Disability Awareness and Accessibility Awareness months from the Governor's Council and will let members know when they arrive so that they can be picked up and distributed throughout the community. Katie has checked with Beverly about naming a liaison to CCA; that position should be filled by the end of March.

New Concerns: Regarding snow removal, some of the handicapped ramps outside the Showers building are icy at the bottom of their inclines.

Report from Chair: Katie asked Council members for priorities for consideration during this year. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the ADA in July will be one of the main focuses.

Committee Reports:

A. **Accessibility Committee:** Vicki reported that the short term goal of ten new businesses eligible for receiving an accessibility decal by April is partially fulfilled with three eligible now. The committee is working to have an additional ten by the time of the July celebration of the 25th ADA anniversary in July. Vicki explained the committee's newly adopted standard procedure for businesses that are obviously not accessible. The committee will wait until remodeling has been completed, but send that business a letter asking them to notify the committee when the renovations have been completed so that the business may be surveyed.

A new app—an access map—will be launched in July, inviting the user to make comments of both positive and negative natures. Those businesses receiving positive comments should be added to the list to be surveyed for accessibility assessment. Those receiving negative comments will be visited by the surveyors and a follow up letter with suggestions sent to those businesses.

Vicki is looking for assessment priorities: what businesses do people with disabilities visit? Those businesses, such as restaurants, hotels, etc., are candidates for assessment.

The next surveyor training session will be held by David at the Hyatt, probably during the first week of April. Brian Reynolds has already completed a surveying session with Lynne and is added to the list of surveyors.

Vicki plans to send a parking spec guideline for striping parking areas (ADA and code sheet) this month to those companies that do this work.

- B. **Activities and Events Committee:** Susan reminded Council members that March is designated as Disability Awareness Month and April is Accessibility Awareness Month. Her committee has met with Merridee, LaMantia, CFRD graphic designer, and will meet once again to plan the April display case exhibit. She asked for members to look for photos that might be included in the display.

Susan, Lucy, and Bet Savich will meet with Herald-Times editor Bob Zaltsberg to share ideas for possible articles focusing on the themes and titles of the ADA. These feature stories could be included in the Herald-Times throughout the anniversary year. Some suggestions from the Council included interviews (including photos) that are held at schools, history of the CCA, employment of people with disabilities, challenges and benefits of making businesses accessible, such as Function Brewery.

Susan encouraged those people making presentations at schools to use interactive and hands-on activities with the students.

The \$1000 Humanities grant obtained last month will be used to hold a Block Party celebrating the 25th anniversary of the ADA. The event will be held on July 25th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Farmer's Market along the B-line trail where the food vendor booths are located. Training on Friday, March 6th will provide instruction on how to plan for the event and includes a starter kit, banner, professional graphing design assistance and communication support.

It was suggested that October be designated Employment Disability Month.

Reports from Affiliate Organizations and Programs/Announcements

Rachel told CCA members that this will be her last year to serve on the Council as she is moving to Florida.

Lisa told of plans to hold a "Thank a Youth Worker Day" on May 7th from 7 to 10 p.m. at Ivy Tech. This event would provide opportunity to thank the people who work with youth in Monroe County, including teachers at MCCSC, RBB, and staff of Girls and Boys Club, etc. and other programs designed for youth.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford
Secretary