

City of Bloomington Council for Community Accessibility

November 19, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Byron Smith, Katie Herron, Megan Hutchinson, Elizabeth Hall, Jeff Busch, Aaron Smith, Bert Clemons, Katie Anderson, David Carter, Suzie Rimstidt, Craig Brenner, Jennifer Robinson, Elizabeth Lyon.

Introductions: Introductions were done. There were no media reports.

Minutes and Financial Report: Minutes were accepted and a financial report was distributed. Craig reported that since the September meeting we have received four more donations: from the IU Credit Union (\$100), Kiwanis (\$125), Human Rights Commission (\$100), and Ivy Tech (\$500). Since the September meeting, the Council has spent \$142 on plaques, and \$840.80 on the honorarium and travel expenses for Andrew Imperato (half of which will be reimbursed by Hire Potential). The catering bill from the Hilton Garden is still outstanding. At meeting time, the council has \$3,535.61 in available funds.

Pending Concerns: Katie H., Megan H. and David C. reported on the meeting with James McNamara and Pete Giordano regarding business accessibility. James McNamara stated at the meeting that he would write up an action plan and disseminate it to the Council. This has not yet been done. Several possible avenues for future exploration were proposed, including: meeting with someone from the county government to discuss the possibility of targeting businesses applying for a food or liquor license, working with the city to increase accessibility for tourists, and revitalizing the decal program. Craig reported that he had met with two CFR interns to discuss following-up on businesses that had been evaluated in 2003. Craig and the interns visited six businesses on November 16th and only two (Bloomington Hospital Rebound East and Chapman's) have made the changes necessary to receive a decal. The other four (Fifth Third Bank on East Third Street, Fazoli's, Bruster's Ice Cream, and Limestone Grill) have not made the suggested changes. The interns will continue to follow-up on other previously evaluated locations. Craig also suggested making training volunteers to screen for the decal program a Martin Luther King Day volunteer activity. Volunteers could be trained on the accessibility checklist and then spend the spring evaluating businesses. Byron asked the Accessibility committee to meet before 12/14/07 to discuss the decal program, including issues such as how to train volunteers to achieve consistency. Elizabeth Hall agreed to chair this committee and Ruth, David, Vicki, and Katie agreed to be members.

Activities and Events Committee: Bert reported that the holiday party is scheduled for 12/17/07 at 6 p.m. at the Peppergrass clubhouse. Craig will send out notices. The party will be potluck and there will be a \$5 gift exchange. Everyone agreed that the annual awards ceremony in October went very well. Byron commented that he was glad Elizabeth H. had the idea to recognize all the nominees and he would like to see that done every year. Katie A. pointed out that one of the award winners was in attendance at the meeting (Elizabeth Lyon). Byron would like to consider listing CCA members in the

program next year and he would also like to see the Council find a new location that is either newly accessible or that we haven't used before.

Communications and Operations Committee: Katie H. shared several ideas from the business accessibility meeting that relate to communications. Byron asked her to email Vicki about these ideas, which include: speaking at the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, doing another round of sensitivity training, updating our website, visiting other committees to network and share information, talking to service clubs.

Arts Access Committee: Byron reported that this committee is in "crisis". Several people have left and new members are needed. The committee is broadening its focus beyond just accessibility for the visually impaired. Contact Byron if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Hire Potential: Megan H. reported that Hire Potential had a busy October, including an event with Andrew Imparato for high school students and a networking opportunity for agency personnel who do job coaching and assistance.

Way to Go: Suzie R. reported that a training was scheduled but no one attended. She reported that the group will pursue on-site trainings to draw participants.

Old Business: Jennifer R. reported that Ned Baugh (IT director at the Monroe County Public Library) is very interested in making the library more accessible and has asked for suggestions from the Council multiple times. Byron will call Ned to find out how we can help and Megan will email some suggestions about accessible assistive technology that Work One recently purchased.

New Business: David C. reported that Boston requires larger cab companies to have a certain percentage of accessible vans as part of their fleet. Although Bloomington only has one cab company, the concept is exciting and Byron suggested we keep this in mind for future exploration.

General Announcements:

- Ivy Tech is sponsoring a Day of Cultural Arts: Understanding Diversity celebration on 12/4 from 12-3 p.m. at Ivy Tech. Katie A. suggested that CCA might want to have a booth to discuss what we do and to share some disability resources. Craig will get materials together and Elizabeth L. will pick them up from the CFR office. Elizabeth L., Katie A., Suzie R., and Megan H. are all available to help with a booth at this event.
- Craig asked how many large print materials he should be bringing to these meetings. Also called attention to the MLK materials that were passed out. He suggested nominating people working with disabilities for the MLK Legacy Award.
- David C. reminded the Council that the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities is having its annual conference next Tuesday and Wednesday at the Hyatt in downtown Indianapolis. Interested individuals can still register.