

**Council for Community Accessibility  
Meeting Notes for February 26, 2024, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

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

**Members:** Lesley Davis, Chris Jackson, Karin Willison,, Marche Daughtery, Kathy Schultz, Penni Sims, Casey Guarino, Helen Caves, Shelli Strimaiti, Holly Elkins, Martin Homan, Sam Dove and Linda Crawford.

**Guest:** Desiree Branaman, Assistant Program Director, College Internship Program

**City Staff:** Michael Shermis, Annabelle Vosmeier

**Minutes:** January minutes were accepted as printed and distributed. It was agreed that anything that the council continues to work on from the previous year is a goal for 2024.

**Financial Report:** Michael reported a balance of \$341.29.

**Guest Presentation:** Desiree Branaman, Assistant Program Director, of College Internship Program, a national company, explained that the purpose of CIP is to assist students with learning differences achieve self-determination, whether their goal is academic or career-oriented. Students complete a weekly self-assessment form and then review it with their advisors, Students with autism and ADHD make up a large portion of the program and are encouraged to stay with the program for at least two years. The student's cost of the program covers tuition and housing.

**Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach:** Shelli explained SPOT, the new bus tracking app. The app includes several enhancements, including upgraded messaging and onboard announcements. It was noted that BT Access and Rural Transit will have new software in the near future. Micro-transit is zone-based. Fares will be made through the app, though reloadable fare cards will still be available.

An informal opportunity to meet the mayor will be hosted by Stone Belt on March 26 at 4:30. As the previous forum hosted by Stone Belt (meet the mayor candidates) was successful, Stone Belt decided to use the same format for this forum. Penni asked the Council to generate some questions for the forum. Members responded with discussion items such as ways to include disability in decision-making, resolving mobility issues of the transportation plan, and accessible and affordable housing for people with disabilities.

**Report from the City:** The CCA has been invited to host a table at the MCCSC Transition Fair to be held on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 5:00-7:30 pm at Bloomington High School North. Karin and Casey indicated that they might be able to be there.

There is an IU graduate fair on the following day from 4-6 pm in the Global Studies Building.

The City, for a one-week trial period, is using Rev Max, a device that is an add-on to the Zoom app. Its purpose is to increase the accuracy of captions that appear on the screen.

At an Engineering Training event was held two years ago, it was suggested that an experiential training be held again that would include people in wheelchairs and people with low vision and follow pre-designed routes. This is to be held on May 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:30-1:30. Karin, Lesley, Casey, and Susan would like to participate in this event.

Michael will be preparing the CCA annual report to be presented to the City Council. This would open the report to a wider public viewing.

**New Accessibility Concerns:** Construction at the B-Line and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street has extended onto the B-Line Trail, making wheelchair accessibility difficult. Michael will look into this. If there is someone who needs an advocate for Medicaid, Karin will assist.

**Committee Reports:**

- A. Accessibility: Two surveys have been completed with several more on the calendar to be completed. Training for surveying will be held next week.
- B. Transportation and Mobility: The committee is applying for an AARP grant of \$20,000. This grant would cover three parts, which would include a survey that gathers information from fifty to possibly one hundred individuals. This would focus on Hopewell as well and include features to make housing more accessible. The committee is also looking into another grant and will find support with fundraising.
- C. Activities and Events: It was decided to refocus the goal of the Breaking down the Barriers which is normally held in early spring. Suggestions included revisiting the training for restaurant employees, raising awareness, etc. The suggestion of how to accommodate people with disabilities during a disaster received enthusiastic support for looking further into this idea.  
If a grant is secured, the theme of Gather 'round the Table held in the fall might focus on housing for people with disabilities.  
Michael said there is a high probability of having more than usual number of organizations involved in the July ADA Birthday Celebration.
- D. MALL: There is a possibility that the First Christian Church, located close to the library, will be able to provide additional storage for mobility devices. Currently there are four power wheelchairs that need to be moved from Karin's house to a new location. Scooters are requested frequently but often are not available. The committee is continuing to find ways to get information about the availability of the mobility aids to the people who need these items. Perhaps their Facebook page would help. MALL would like to have an official fundraiser; also, an IU undergraduate class is working on a grant for MALL.

**Report from the Chair:** No report.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Crawford, Secretary