

Council for Community Accessibility
Meeting Notes for November 25, 2024, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

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, Martin Homan, Charlotte Lee, Deborah Myerson, Shelley Strimaiti, Kristen King, and Linda Crawford.

City Staff: Michael Shermis, Annabelle Vosmeier, CCA Assistant

Minutes: The September minutes were accepted as printed and distributed.

Financial Report: Expenses for the November event, Gather 'round the Table, were contained within its budget; Michael reported a balance of \$191.80,

Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach: Changes to BT Access are coming in December. Riders will be able to use an app to pay fare. Paratransit can use the BT app, but an account must be activated prior to using the app. Paper tickets are still available, but the punch pass is being phased out. Riders using a smart card can call to get their current balance on the card. The changes made in payment methods will not affect the status of those riding at a reduced fare.

Chris mentioned that the library is now making monthly house calls to those who are unable to get to the library or book mobile.

Kristen King announced that Stone Belt will host its annual pancake breakfast on December 13 from 9:00 to 11:00. The art produced by Stone Belt clients will be offered at 50% discount on December 13 and 14.

Ivy Tech will host its inclusive Winter Festival on December 5 from 5-7 with food and games and other activities.

Report from the City:

- The ADA transition plan was passed by the City Council with no problems other than a couple technical questions.
- The Accessible and Inclusive Events Checklist received a positive response from the people who have seen it. It was posted on the WTIU/WFIU site. It was suggested that the Checklist be posted on the CCA website. It was noted that there were several accessibility concerns at the Ellettsville Fall Festival; perhaps the Checklist could be shared with the event's committee, as well as committees of other events.
- Funding for the ARPA Accessibility Project remains a possibility. If confirmed, \$50,000 would be available to individuals, businesses and city government as mini grants in amounts of \$10 to \$250 per project.

- A liability consent form has been approved in order for the Snow Buddies program to move forward.
- The county has agreed to use the same liability waiver, too. A volunteer is needed to coordinate the volunteers with those requesting help. Mary Stores has agreed to take on this role. The hope is to have the program in place this next month. Send Michael names of volunteers or if you want the service.
- The barriers to accessibility for outdoor restaurant seating in the Parklets program needs to be examined. Guidelines will include a section pertaining to accessibility that will be established and updated on a yearly basis.
- Sharon Baker, who has a disability, has applied to serve on the Human Rights Commission. Her addition to the Commission would add a voice for attention to accessibility concerns.
- A hybrid MPO committee meeting will be held on December 5 from 5-7 pm in City Hall to discuss safety in the future, looking ahead to 2050.

New Accessibility Concerns from Members/Visitors: The van accessible parking spots (like the ones on Kirkwood & Lincoln next to the Graduate Hotel and the one on Washington in front of Fifth Third) are not functional as they need to be for vans with ramps. Michael was speaking with Planning and Transportation in an effort to have future van accessible spaces be more functional.

Public Comment: It was mentioned that there is a new Disney movie titled “Out of My Mind” whose theme focuses on how a young person with cerebral palsy navigates her world with the help of technology. Also, one of the actors in “Wicked” uses a wheelchair.

Report from the Chair: Lesley has been appointed to the Open Government Task Force and will assess the accessibility of the city’s website and meetings. It was noted in the discussion that presentations, usually made by guest speakers, are inaccessible for those with vision impairments. CCA suggested that guest speakers be made aware of this concern and ask if the presentation can be given ahead of time to those people in a format that is useful to them. Another suggestion was to offer assistance in how to make an accessible presentation. On January 7, the Bloomington Rotary Club will be hosting Lesley Davis in the IMU Frangipani Room to speak on the subject of accessibility. Lunch begins at 11:30. Talk to Michael if you would like to join them.

Committee Reports:

- Accessibility:** The committee is in the process of modifying the new BlueDAG software to fit our surveying needs. Michael and Annabelle plan to highlight certain criteria with a weighted scale with December being the target date for completion and usage. Training videos will be used in 2025 with the new surveyors. As a result of the process of implementing the new software, there are no plans for a Breaking down the Barriers event in the spring.
- Transportation and Mobility:** The committee met in a joint October meeting with the BT Access riders who have accessibility concerns. The meeting included problem solving and good communication. The next quarterly meeting will be in January.
- Activities and Events:** Feedback from Gather ‘round the Table was positive. Attendees praised the Project School students for their assistance with the event and urged continuation of this partnership. Is there a possibility of working with on a new event to replace Breaking down the Barriers?
- MALL:** MALL is the recipient of an Equity grant which will be used to create a digital base of their mobility items, as well as developing digital forms. They are hoping to receive donations of \$2,000 on Giving Tuesday that would be used to acquire ten transport

wheelchairs. Casey explained how to support MALL through Kroger's Community Awards program. The procedure to add this to one's Kroger loyalty card will be explained in the next newsletter.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary