

Council for Community Accessibility

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, Shelley Strimatis, Bryan Fyalkowski, Ginny Babbitt, Carly Dixon, Martin Homan, and Linda Crawford

City Staff: Michael Shermis, Annabelle Vosmeier, Ryan Robling, Planning Services Manager, City of Bloomington Planning and Transportation Department

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

Financial Report: Michael reported a balance of \$136.90.

Report from the City: Michael announced that Bloomington will be hosting a Round Table on September 17th for the organization of state ADA coordinators, of which he is a part. The CCA will present a 20-minute segment with 2 or 3 people describing the work of the CCA.

A draft for the Fire Department training which will consist of six 2-hour long sessions is being developed—the title of one of the activities in the training: Help-I've Fallen and Can't Get Up!

There has been a request for information on automatic doors at The Mill.

Michael thanked Martin and Marche, on behalf of the Parks and Rec Department for providing assistance in a review of the tactile map for use in Switchyard Park.

Ryan Robling, Planning Services Manager from the Planning and Transportation Department, explained the creation of a new commission which will include a member of the CCA. This new commission will be involved in transportation issues, including corridor studies, long-range planning, parking, traffic, and pedestrians. The commission, once in place, will determine meeting times. First meeting will possibly be held in May. Interested people should email Michael within 10 days and a list of three people will be sent to the mayor for appointment to the commission.

Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach Shelley reported a good sub-committee meeting at the recent Bloomington Transit meeting. BT is purchasing land, but federal funds are needed to build a new building.

Chris announced that a second bookmobile with a chair lift will be available within the next year and a half. It will not be completely accessible; he will share the design of the book mobile with the council before okaying the blueprint. The library is using a consultant with book mobile experience.

New Accessibility Concerns from Members/Visitors: A question was raised about when the parking space that has a planter which is creating an accessibility obstacle at The Mill will be changed—the location is of it will be moved to a closer location once a bike rack is moved. Lesley will check tomorrow to see if the problem still exists.

Committee/Partner Reports:

Accessibility Committee: Chris announced that multiple surveys with the new tool (Blue Dag) have been completed. Despite the software including minute details that are not readily utilized by the survey team, the generated report includes photos and ideal placements of fixtures which is useful for business owners. Of the four surveyed businesses (Lincoln Square, Dave and Buster's, Oasis, and MetalWorks), one has real potential to earn a decal and the others have been provided with suggestions as a result of the surveys. The generated report makes it easier for business owners to correct the deficiencies.

Transportation and Mobility Committee: There is no big project for the committee at this time. It was noted that there is not a high level of interest among providers for providing nonmedical transportation out of Bloomington. A question was raised about the possibility of someone developing a business supported by Medicaid to address this need; various limitations to such an idea were discussed among members.

Activities and Events Committee: Planning will soon begin for the ADA celebration to be held on August 2, 2025, at the Farmer's Market.

MALL: MALL is on the lookout for storage space, free or inexpensive and people are encouraged to keep looking. MALL representatives will be at Switchyard Park on May 7th from 3:00 to 6:00.

Planning (continued from last month): Next month's speaker will be the director of Public Works. Council members will have a few minutes to ask questions following his presentation.

It was suggested to have the director of HAND speak at a future CCA meeting as well as someone to discuss the street closure for outdoor dining.

A street map of newly designated accessible parking spaces near the outdoor dining places on Kirkwood was presented to Council members.

Clips from a video developed by Downtown Madison (Wisconsin) demonstrate how to respond to accessibility issues that arise from outdoor dining. This video can be accessed by <http://downtownmadison.org/beyond-compliance>.

Michael has spoken with the director of Downtown Bloomington about addressing accessibility issues and increasing awareness of accessible opportunities for involvement in Bloomington. The CCA is interested in attending one of their meetings. Some of the Bloomington city staff already attend some of their meetings.

Lesley asked Council members to examine the list of goals for 2025 and select those that can realistically be achieved this year. There was a strong desire to develop a disability brochure/video that promotes venues, activities, etc. that are accessible to visitors.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary