

Council for Community Accessibility
April 28, 2025

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, Adam Hamel, Martin Homan, Deborah Myerson, and Linda Crawford

City Staff: Michael Shermis, Annabelle Vosmeier

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

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

Report from the City: Michael reported that there are not many disability service providers attending the Disability Service Providers Coalition meetings despite different approaches to encourage attendance. It was decided by the Council that members of the Coalition be invited to quarterly meetings of the CCA with the first of these being the September meeting.

Marche and Sherry Walls accompanied one of the city engineers on a field trip to the Trades district, new Hopewell park, and a railroad/pedestrian crossing on W. 3rd Street to provide input on tactile directional indicators and other design issues. Input from the two volunteers was so useful and insightful that the CCA will continue to serve as a resource on design for the Engineering Department. Work continues on improving digital accessibility on the City's webpages.

The *Herald Times* website includes an article concerning Dan Combs' appeal of the parking fine he received in February. He provided photos of signage he believes weren't accessible and meter-less parking space that contributed to the confusion of what was expected when parking in this particular space. Perhaps a Public Works representative could attend a CCA meeting to answer questions arising concerning the meter-less parking spaces?

There are two potential candidates, and another willing to serve as a backup, to represent CCA on the newly created transportation commission.

Training for the Fire Department will be held on June 24th.

The ATV ordered for use in the parks was delivered with one part missing; thus, the vehicle has not been tried out yet.

The May meeting of the CCA will be held on Wednesday, May 28th at 4:15.

The date of the unveiling of the Switchyard Park map will be forwarded by Michael.

The ADA coordinators round table, which includes networking, lunch and a speaker, will be hosted by Bloomington in September. About 25-30 persons will attend.

Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach. A donor has provided funds for remodeling the Spencer Pride building, including \$100,000+ to install an elevator. The upstairs floor includes a ballroom and library as well as accessible restrooms.

New Accessibility Concerns from Members/Visitors: The newly planted trees on the B-Line at Hopewell have covers that have a gap around the base of the trees, thus creating a potential hazard for those who are blind and use canes to navigate.

Cars tend to park at the corner of Kirkwood and Grant in the accessible parking space to pick up a food order, creating accessibility problems.

It was pointed out that some state parks have now added wheelchairs and a discount for persons with disabilities.

Committee/Partner Reports:

Accessibility Committee: Chris announced that of the two surveys recently completed, Max's Place has earned a decal. Mama's Cafe has a number of problems with the restrooms not being able to be made accessible. However, the owner was provided with the information from the new survey tool. The committee hopes to have more surveys completed in May.

Transportation and Mobility Committee: Deborah reported meeting with the BT Advisory committee last month. The committee is working on having public transportation ready for winter weather.

Activities and Events: Information will be sent out to potential participants for the ADA celebration to be held on August 2, 2025 at the Farmer's Market.

MALL: MALL is celebrating its third anniversary with a fundraiser. Merchandise advertising MALL is available for purchase.

Planning (Continued):

It was suggested that traveling CCA popup meetings take place when we don't have monthly meetings (usually July and October). These meetings would serve as a source of information, as well as answering questions from attendees. Adam will check into having Stone Belt host one of the meetings. Other suggested places include the Endwright Center and the Commons at the Mall. Martin will check with the Multi-Faith Alliance to see if they are interested.

The theme for the Fall Gather Round the Table will be employment. Possible contact persons include Jenny Austin at Vocational Rehab and Brianne Sinard from Stone Belt as well as Cook and Upland Brewery.

It was suggested that perhaps a State Park director versed in accessibility issues might provide a presentation at a future CCA meeting if they could do this remotely.

Lesley asked members to look at the goals for 2025 and "find your passion!" Discussion will continue at future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary

