

Council for Community Accessibility

May 30, 2025

The hybrid meeting was opened at 4:15 p.m. by Lesley Davis.

Members present: Lesley Davis, Chris Jackson, Karin Willison, Casey Guarino, MarChe Daughtery, Martin Homan, Susan Seizer, Drushya Musham, Hannah Lencheck, and Linda Crawford

City Staff: Michael Shermis, Annabelle Vosmeier

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

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

Report from the City Michael reported that he received twenty-four inquiries concerning service dogs, “mow” buddies, employment, pool waivers, accessible parking, etc.

Tree grates placed around the trees on the Hopewell-B-line have caused accessibility problems because of the space between the grate and the tree itself. As the newly planted trees are to be replaced, there will be an adjustment to the fit of the grates to include a lip that would prevent a cane from going into a hole.

In preparation for Michael’s upcoming digital accessibility interview, he queried the Council on additional ways to make CCA more of a presence in the community. Suggestions included: raising awareness of the CCA and its work, being more inclusive, increasing publication of meetings and events, drawing attention to what things are accessible, make use of Reddit, consider a wider range of advertising that reaches a larger part of the community including the deaf and blind communities, increase outreach to campus, offer personal invites to meetings and events, follow up with personal contact, look for other organizations to connect with, make use of the WFHB community spot.

Michael will be attending the National ADA Symposium in Atlanta from June 15 through the 18th.

Michael and Lesley will attend the ADA Training Leadership Network sponsored by the Great Lakes ADA Center in late August to be trained in delivering training about ADA issues.

Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach Hannah reported that Stone Belt’s “Time to Remember” event recently took place. They are carefully watching for updates on House bills that affect them and others.

Chris reported a greatly appreciated donation of two rollators to MALL, as rollators are a frequently requested mobility aid. On June 1, the summer reading program (Color Your World) will commence, with programs for all ages.

Drushya demonstrated a new app, Taptic, that they developed to assist people who are hard of hearing or deaf.

The first quarterly pop up meeting held with community members will take place at Stone Belt on July 9 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. This will be followed by a community meeting at the Endwright Center in the Mall in October. Plans include speaking with the Multi-Faith Alliance at another pop up meeting.

New Accessibility Concerns from Members/Visitors: The crosswalk light at East Third and EGGLESTON (near Jacobs School of Music) is malfunctioning: The light does not show “Walk” and just shows a black screen. (Don’t walk sign works.) Martin mentioned that the IU Auditorium provides headsets at events, but patrons must request them.

Committee/Partner Reports:

Accessibility Committee: Chris reported that of the two surveys completed this month, Vivencia may receive a decal if signage requirements are met. However, 55 Southern Stone has deficiencies in ADA compliance with restrooms and parking. Though these areas will be more difficult to correct, the owner has been provided with the results of the survey which includes suggestions for bringing these areas up to ADA acceptance. Chris would like to have a few surveyors available for surveying more businesses and the Committee has plans to reach out to past surveyors and offer them training in the new BlueDAG software.

Transportation and Mobility Committee: There was no meeting of the committee this month. In Deborah’s absence, Michael relayed information about the new shuttle service available for downtown Bloomington, from 10th Street to 1st Street (north to south) and from Rogers to Indiana (west to east). The free service would be available from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 5:00 to 9:00 pm.

Activities and Events: Two organizations so far have indicated that they are participating in the ADA Birthday Celebration. Annabelle is handling the preliminary work for the week prior to the event and Michael will be there the morning of the day of the event—August 2nd to assist. Michael is beginning the search for speakers/presenters/panelists for the fall Gather Round the Table which will highlight employment.

MALL: Karin reported that MALL is to be the recipient of 100% of the proceeds from the Regional Rehab event. Also MALL will be featured in the display case in the Showers building.

Planning (Continued):

Lesley has been selected as the CCA representative to the newly formed City Transportation Committee. One of her priorities is affordable or free medical transportation outside of Bloomington. It was suggested that a representative from HAND be invited to a CCA meeting. Current concerns include how people with disabilities can advocate, complaints, the procedure for making modifications to an apartment, etc.

Lesley will receive “tickets” to be placed on the windshields of cars that are parked in accessible parking aisles without proper accessible parking permission. When the tickets arrive, she will bring them to a CCA meeting for perusal.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary