

Council for Community Accessibility

August 25, 2025

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

Members present: Lesley Davis, Karin Willison, Casey Guarino, Marche Daughtery, Chris Jackson, Marcia Johnson, David Johnson, Asia Abang, Haoxi Wang, Deborah Myerson, Tomi Allison, Tommy Cunningham, Carly Dixon, Michelle Bright, Shelly Strimaitis, Bryan Fyalkowski, and Linda Crawford

City Staff: Michael Shermis, Annabelle Vosmeier

Guest: Ric Edwards, ADA Director, Indiana Department of Natural Resources

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

Financial Report: Michael reported a balance of \$536.90. Donations for the October event of Gather 'round the Table are currently being received.

Presentation: With a beautifully illustrated PowerPoint presentation, Ric Edwards, ADA Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, provided several examples of how the state parks are becoming more accessible. (For example, the Tower at Indiana Dunes, Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area). He explained in detail the symbols used to indicate various activities at the parks and that dotted lines are used around the symbols to indicate accessibility. The department's website lists accessible activities.

Eli Lilly has donated money to purchase 40 track chairs so that there will be at least one at each state park. Ric explained that surfaces throughout the parks may be constructed from materials other than asphalt and cement. Trail information is required for each trail.

Ric emphasized that everyone benefits from accessibility.

Report from the City: Asia announced that there is \$55,000 in grant money available for digital opportunities. The city will be offering a workshop in October on scam protection. The department is also working on their five-year strategic plan.

Michael said that "Food for Thought" which meets at the Endwright Center will offer an informative 2-part session (Sept 19 and 26) on hearing loss. IU experts will offer suggestions on how to improve acoustics.

The City Chambers will host a discussion on housing on September 10th at 6:30. It would be good to have someone from CCA attend this meeting.

Michael watched a demonstration of applying a product called Flexi-Pane (consisting of recycled old tires, rocks, and polyurethane) around a tree in front of the Graduate Hotel. It is much less expensive than the metal grates presently used but yet tolerates wheelchairs and is not a hazard for people using canes.

On September 17th, Bloomington will host the ADA coordinators round table. Four CCA members will also attend.

Tentatively HAND will apply for an Indiana Ramp-Up grant which would provide financing for building ramps. MALL, Area 10 on Aging, Habitat for Humanity, and SICIL are supporting the application.

Lesley and Michael will attend a three-day Training Leadership Network workshop sponsored by the Great Lakes ADA on August 26-28. Following their training, they will be able to provide ADA-associated training to other organizations in our community and other cities. All their expenses will be covered.

Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach: Chris reported that there have been some ADA issues at the library, but MCPL is able to meet most of the needs required to meet ADA standards.

Shelly, Bloomington Transit, reported that the routes are back to their normal service areas and questions raised by the late-night service have been addressed. Late night service for BTAccess cannot be reached by the Blink app. It is necessary for eligible riders to call the office and talk with a dispatcher. There currently is no update on Rural Transit being funded by Monroe County.

Haoxi said that on September 18th DSI members will meet at Karst Farm from 2:30 to 3:30. It is open to the public and ice cream will be offered.

MALL will appear at the Bloomington Pride Fest. Kristin mentioned that more space, more volunteers and more money is needed for MALL's operation, MALL has loaned several power chairs recently.

New Accessibility Concerns from Members/Visitors: There were some accessibility concerns mentioned by some attending the ADA Celebration. Tomi Allison, former Bloomington mayor, discussed the lack of signage in the downtown parking garage indicating where to find the crosswalks. She also mentioned the importance of getting the information out to Bloomington residents: how does one find this information and how to deliver this information. The bottom line for success in meeting these concerns is communication. David Johnson expressed his concern about the lack of transportation to places outside Bloomington. Michael will check with Ric Edwards to see if he might have some suggestions for remedying this problem.

Beth mentioned that the Bloomington Transit budget hearing will be held on August 27th. People are encouraged to attend to see what the priorities are and to speak up about the accessibility in residential areas.

There is broken sidewalk along 2nd Street from Seminary Square to Walker Avenue and at 919 2nd Street, there is no curb cut.

David brought up that at his apartment, the second set of doors is too far to reach to open the door if one is in a wheelchair. Michael will check with the landlord to see how this situation can be corrected. The food truck parked in front of the First Christian Church blocks the curb cut.

Committee/Partner Reports:

Accessibility Committee: Two businesses have been surveyed. Mother Bear's West should receive a decal with a minor correction; a second business has several areas that need to be corrected to meet ADA specifications.

The Monroe County Clerk would like possible polling places to be surveyed. Michael will present to the Elections Board on Sept. 4th.

Transportation and Mobility Committee: Nothing to add this month.

Activities and Events: Gather 'round the Table will be held on October 27th at The Mill from 4:00 to 6:30, offering heavy appetizers. The topic will be employment with Stone Belt, Cook, and the Fehribach Center participating. Requests for IIDC and Voc Rehab participation are out, too.

MALL: No additional report

Meeting was adjourned at 5:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary