

Council for Community Accessibility

Meeting Minutes for January 26, 2026

The Zoom meeting was opened at 4:00 p.m. by Lesley Davis, followed by introductions by those who were present at the meeting.

Members Present:

- Lesley Davis, Karin Willison, MarChe Daughtry, Deborah Myerson, Hannah Lencheck, Anna Thompson Jones, Bryan Fyalkowski, Chris Jackson, Michael Stribling, Haoxi Wang, Susan Seizer, Dorothy Lenard and Linda Crawford.
- City Staff: Michael Shermis, Annabelle Vosmeier, Anna Killion-Hanson, Director, HAND, City of Bloomington, and Shatoyia Moss, Director, Community and Family Resources.

Minutes

November, 2025 minutes were accepted as printed and distributed.

Discussion with Anna Killion-Hanson, Director, HAND

Discussion with Anna Killion-Hanson, Director, HAND, began with an introduction by Deborah Myerson, who also provided a recap of accessibility concerns brought to the January 12th Planning Commission meeting.

Lesley stated that under the UDO, there is to be at least one universal design component meeting accessibility standards included in the Hopewell housing. She informed those at the meeting that Davis, California, goes beyond the minimum required and urged that planners utilize consultants to see if this can be done with housing here in Bloomington. Anna said that exterior doorways are 32-36 inches wide with interior doors a minimum of 32 inches wide. There was nothing mentioned in the plans about height of countertops. As far as the request for no steps, it was considered too expensive to include that provision. Karin thought that a graduated slope or ramp would make that feasible without a significant increase in cost. Anna said that there are more accessible housing units than required—30 units—that meet some of the ADA standards. There was a reminder from the Council that ADA standards apply to nursing homes, hotels, places of businesses, but not housing. On the other hand, ANSI standards include four levels of complicity and are better suited for housing.

Karin was concerned that there is no plan for an accessible bathroom on the main floor. She encouraged the developers to go back to the plans and use more creative thinking to make the housing more accessible for the residents. CCA should be involved as a resource in planning.

Shatoyia reminded attendees to accept the reality that the planning for Hopewell South must ensure that all groups get what is needed, not just accessibility or affordability. The City is doing what it can to address all the groups with an interest in the development and Anna reiterated that there must always be a compromise. They maintained that making housing accessible also makes housing less affordable.

Dorothy commented that anyone can have a temporary disability; also, visitability standards are important in planning. As cost is an underlying concern for the development, Karin inquired if it is possible to see the cost of the current plans.

Michael asked that because different groups have different demands, what are the next steps in the process. And, if it's not possible to meet the goal of accessibility in Hopewell South, could future Hopewell development meet accessibility conditions. This raised several questions from Council members:

- Could a UDO specialist be consulted?
- Can the visitability guidelines be considered?
- Can aging in place standards be a part of the consideration?
- Can the CCA look at the Hopewell plans?

As the October, 2024, Gather Round the Table event addressed housing concerns, and there was much information and many questions exchanged between CCA members and City representatives, it was hoped that the CCA could be used as a resource for including accessibility in the UDO.

Planning (Continued)

Goals from 2025 were posted and a description of what has been accomplished is attached as well as discussion among members for developing goals for 2026.

Transportation:

1. Expansion of BT Access or other publicly funded accessible transit options to include routes outside of Bloomington
 - a. BT is limited in what it can do but has expanded locally in the past year and is more active in CCA.
 - b. Bryan added that to expand service, funding is needed from the areas that BT might add service. Lesley suggested looking at what is available in other cities. GO Express has some wheelchair accessibility but it is necessary to call ahead for service. Also, there is a desire for transportation options to get to medical places.
2. Incentivize accessible Ubers or taxis in Bloomington which would be available at any time

- a. There has not been a lot of time advocating by CCA for this in the past year.
- b. An accessible minivan would be desirable. Microtransit is not available if passenger is within close range of a bus stop. In that case, the passenger would use the bus.
- c. BT Access is available until 9:00 pm. The question was raised about adding this information to the CCA website.

Accessibility/ADA Standards:

1. Work with city and county government and business communities to incentivize stricter, better-than-ADA standards within Bloomington city limits for new constructions of hotels, restaurants, the new convention center, etc.
 - a. Significant progress has been made with this goal as it relates to Hopewell.
 - b. It was suggested that it would be desirable to have a CCA member on the Planning Commission. CCA will continue pursuing its accessibility goals with the development of Hopewell.
 - c. Because there is an overlap with housing and transportation accessibility concerns, it was suggested to make the Transportation Committee a combined Housing/Transportation Committee.
2. Work with BMV, City, IU and police department to educate drivers about accessible parking etiquette and develop methods for enforcing while educating offenders.
 - a. There was little action on this goal last year.
 - b. Shall this be a continued goal?
3. Work with City and subcontractors on effective snow removal procedures to remove access barriers to paths of travel for people with disabilities.
 - a. CCA has been vocal in this area and is looking for indicators that efforts have been effective.
 - b. Michael encouraged continued use of UReport as this shows the City that there are concerns so that the City then responds. He and Annabelle will continue to look for a grant to supply snow shovels for the Snow Buddies to clear paths for persons with disabilities and senior citizens requiring assistance.

Community Connections:

1. Increase community engagement and outreach by meeting people where they are with “Traveling CCA Meetings” hosted by the CCA once a quarter.
 - a. This was done at Stone Belt and the Endwright Center at College Mall. CCA participation was less than what was hoped for.
 - b. SICIL is still interested in this and will meet wherever in Bloomington. As this traveling meeting concept creates more work for Michael and Annabelle, perhaps it would be wise to focus on a new event to accomplish this goal.
2. Host Informal social meetings to connect with potential members
 - a. This goal has not been achieved as yet.
 - b. The success of the “pop-up” meetings might best be measured by information reaching people with accessibility needs instead of considering the number of people attending CCA meetings.
3. Increase diversity of perspectives by connecting with other social service organizations that work with people with disabilities
 - a. This goal is worth continuing to pursue.
 - b. We should be looking to strengthen our connections with all CCA members inviting others to become involved, not just Michael.
4. Offer Disability Awareness/Etiquette trainings
 - a. This goal has happened with great success!
 - b. The City’s IT department, Parks and Rec, Planning and Transportation, Fire, as well as United Way, Beacon, and Bloomington township office have requested training. Are there some ideas for businesses? As this invitation to conduct training sessions includes everyone, should the training be advertised through the Chamber of Commerce?

Employment:

1. Creation of a peer-to-peer support program around employment
 - a. No progress has been made in achieving this goal.
 - b. In lieu of a peer-to-peer support program, it was suggested that individuals could secure a career coach. Lesley and Annabelle will create a survey which compiles areas of expertise of CCA members; results could be added to the CCA website.

Housing:

1. Become more involved in efforts to increase local stock of affordable and accessible housing, reaching out to HAND, City Council, and CoDesign Commons
 - a. CCA has put time and effort into this goal, with focus on Hopewell.
 - b. CCA will continue its efforts in advocating for accessible housing.

Advocacy:

1. Continue to be a voice in local and state-wide efforts to defend the rights of people with disabilities in the face of current and any new threats.
 - a. What are the new threats?
 - b. Where are the local advocacy issues? CCA will continue to advocate for accessible and affordable housing, as well as advocating within the health care field. CCA can work with Hoosier Action in these areas.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm. Submitted by Linda Crawford, Secretary