

## **Council for Community Accessibility**

Meeting Minutes for February 23, 2026

The hybrid meeting was opened at 4:00 by Michael Shermis in the absence of Lesley Davis, followed by introductions of those who were present at the meeting.

### **Members Present:**

- Chris Jackson, Yuchen Hu, Karin Willison, Rivkah Roby, Dorothy Lenard, Mike Stribling, Martin Homan and Linda Crawford.
- City Staff: Michael Shermis, Annabelle Vosmeier

### **Minutes**

January, 2026 minutes were accepted as printed and distributed.

### **Financial Report**

Following the October, 2025 Gather 'round the Table event, there is a balance of \$1115.58.

### **Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach**

Chris reported that a patron of the Southwest branch of the Monroe County Public Library had difficulty with opening one of the library doors. When checked, it was not in compliance with the ADA standard of using five pounds of pressure to open the door. The problem is now corrected and the other doors checked as well. The library has just two rollators available for use, but there are to be more purchased by means of a grant.

### **Report from the City**

Michael passed along information from researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago: This group, along with the Great Lakes ADA Center, is holding a World Cafe 2.5 hour Zoom meeting will be held during the first week in March.

An essay competition sponsored by the Human Rights Commission is open to K-6 students on the topic of "How do you see people caring for each other in this community?" Submission deadline is Friday, March 13.

### **New Accessibility Concerns from Members/Visitors**

A map showing 3 or 4 additional accessible parking spaces on Kirkwood is now available, but there is a need for more communication in letting the community know where they are located.

People are missing the bus stop that had been in front of the public library.

Though Kirkwood will be open this summer, there will be some events that necessitate closing it.

Snow removal in the Eastland Shopping Plaza resulted in pushing it into some accessible parking spaces. The property recently changed ownership, so follow up is necessary. A call to remind the new owner of accessible parking spaces needing to be free of snow will be made letting that individual know that this request is not forcing action, but that there is a possibility of a lawsuit by someone needing that space.

### **Committee/Partner Reports**

#### *Accessibility Committee*

Once the committee has been given a definite polling place list (21 confirmed with 7 or 8 possibilities) within the city and county, those places will be surveyed. Annabelle is tweaking the software variation that is used for surveying polling places to make it applicable to city and county voting sites. The big project of providing mitigations for polling place barriers for Election Day should be wrapped up by early voting starting in April. New surveyors or surveyors in training will pair up with an experienced surveyor. Let Chris or Michael know if you are interested in helping with this surveying project.

#### *Transportation, Mobility, and Housing Committee*

The committee will have quarterly meetings, with Bloomington Transit and Planning & Transportation invited to attend, starting with the following schedule:

- Wednesday, May 6 at noon
- Wednesday, August 5 at noon
- Wednesday, November 5 at noon

#### *Activities and Events Committee*

A new event is needed to replace the former event of "Breaking down the Barriers." Further discussions took place in the Planning section.

#### *MALL*

Karin reported that MALL is looking into moving to College Mall, near the Endwright Center. The rent is affordable, but comes with the stipulation that it could be bumped by another store. MALL is in dire need of manual wheelchairs and there are no rollators on hand. However, there is a plethora of walkers! MALL will receive a donated mini-van that can be utilized by either a passenger or driver with accessibility needs which is to be sold.

### **Planning (Continued)**

Suggestions for an event to replace Breaking down the Barriers include holding it in May, focus on mental health, breaking down the barriers between the different communities of disability. Also suggested were ideas on how to get information to the

public such as through fine arts, World Café, diagrams, pictures, visual note-taking, and graphic recorders.

Perhaps the CCA could find allies in other groups such as the Black, LGBT+, senior communities, and the Interfaith Alliance. Is there an event already in existence or in the planning stage that might present an opportunity for CCA to participate?

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Crawford, Secretary