

# **Council for Community Accessibility**

Meeting Minutes for March 30, 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, Haoxi Wang, Stephanie Smith, Rivkah Roby, Maya Meron, Coleman Kavgian, Karin Willison, Anna Thompson-Jones, Martin Homan, Shelley Strimaitis, Bryan Fyalkowski, Mike Stribling, Dorothy Lenard, Eric Ost, Hannah Lencheck, and Linda Crawford.
- City Staff: Michael Shermis, Annabelle Vosmeier

## **Minutes**

February 2026 minutes were accepted as printed and distributed.

## **Financial Report**

Because of reduced spending at the last event, there is a balance of \$1,115.16.

## **Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach**

- Chris reported that the library has plenty of walkers, canes, crutches and now rollators (22 rollators purchased through a grant) available for check out.
- In May, Dine and Donate will be held at Karst Park. Packets of car wash tickets will be available for purchase.
- SICIL continues to work with those leaving high school, nursing homes, jail, etc. for achieving independence and a full life.
- Bloomington Transit looks forward to marketing of their upcoming changes.
- Mike reported that IU will be in compliance with federal legislation regarding digital accessibility on April 25. This can be referenced at [accessibility.iu.edu](http://accessibility.iu.edu).

## **Report from the City**

As there have been requests for speakers on the topics of disability and accessibility, Michael and Annabelle are developing a form to collect information from potential future speakers. The form will be referenced for people who have expertise in certain areas to suit the request for a speaker for a particular event. CCA members are encouraged to provide feedback on the form.

Nominations for the Be More Awards are due March 31st. Karin will provide information for the MALL nomination. The award for the nonprofit organization is accompanied by a prize of \$1,000.

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

Eric requested digital accessibility information, but CCA focuses on physical disabilities and accessibility as the City of Bloomington is taking responsibility for digital accessibility. The City's ITS Department is working hard to train City employees on the use of software in this area. More information can be obtained at [accessibility@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:accessibility@bloomington.in.gov). Dorothy commented that five or six years ago, online meetings became more accessible. The CCA has been involved a bit in digital accessibility, but the average person has to have a certain level of technical understanding in order to prepare documents to be accessible.

Maya demonstrated two different walking sticks on wheels developed by Bloomington Robotics. It's been named a "mayability stick." You can see a photo of this in the monthly CCA newsletter.

### **Committee/Partner Reports**

#### *Accessibility Committee*

After all polling sites within the city and county have been surveyed, reports for each site listing accessibility problems and barriers, along with recommendations for correcting the barriers, will be sent to the Election Board by the middle of 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. Also, the committee has decided to highlight a certain number of accessible places on a monthly or quarterly basis. These would include such places as "accessibility location," "accessible trails with wheelchair," etc.

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

As the committee meets quarterly with Bloomington Transit, the next meeting will be May 6. Notice: there is no Uber for wheelchair users!

#### *Activities and Events Committee*

There was a discussion for reimagining the Breaking down the Barriers from past years to be a gathering of 30-40 people on a weekday afternoon in May. The focal point will be a discussion of assumptions made about people with disabilities that have created barriers in their lives and how one may positively fight that assumption. DSI, Stone Belt, and maybe, Centerstone will have clients that will attend. CCA members will act as facilitators.

#### *MALL*

MALL has been busy—actively looking for more space that is near a bus line. The area under consideration ideally would have 1,000 sq. ft., rent for \$1,000/month and be climate controlled.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Crawford, Secretary