

Council for Community Accessibility
Meeting Notes for January 31, 2022, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Katie Herron opened the meeting by Zoom at 4:00 p.m.; members introduced themselves via the chat box.

Members: Michelle Hahn, David Carter, Zoe Waters, Barbara Salisbury, John Brady, Chris Jackson, Rachel Rivkah, Katie Herron, Eli McCormick, Cory Mitchell, Zac Hunek, Susan Russ, Sara Frommer, Iris Kiesling, Chris Baskins, Nick Philbeck, Robin Walker, and Linda Crawford.

Staff: Michael Shermis, Michelle Moss

Minutes: November minutes were accepted as distributed.

New Accessibility Concerns: No new concerns were noted.

Rachel mentioned that she is meeting with someone from Centerstone's staff to discuss and encourage the agency's possible involvement with CCA. This would strengthen emphasis on the invisible disability of mental illness.

Katie used power point to summarize CCA's goals of 2021 and review progress toward achievement of those goals:

Goal 1: More engagement between CCA and the deaf community.

Michael issued an invitation to the virtual event of Breaking Down the Barriers in April, at which a person who is deaf presented, as well as continuing to invite others, but regular attendance didn't happen.

Goal 2: Building permits within Monroe County to comply with ADA requirements.

Shelli Yoder spoke at one CCA meeting, but as the county issues the building permits, little progress was noted. Chris Jackson noted that some progress was made with the parking garages and Michael added that more City departments are working with the CCA. Katie mentioned that as this is a policy issue, a law is needed to make continued progress and perhaps this goal should be dropped.

Goal 3: Create interconnectivity through the CCA's three signature events with a wider range of groups to create wider diversity.

Susan noted that people have come to anticipate the three yearly signature events; changing locations and modes of delivery for the events attracted different populations. Barbara noted that an event sponsored by the Transportation and Mobility Committee has been held for the past four years and might be considered a signature event, too.

Goal 4: Educate the community about transportation and mobility in Bloomington and its opportunities and challenges.

Barbara explained that the committee provided training for the city's engineers, planners, other staff, and Common Council members. Progress has been made in

developing Accessible Transportation and Mobility Principles with the hopes of the City Council's adoption of the Principles that might then lead to interest in working on a Complete Streets policy.

Goal 5: Develop a digital accessibility program to augment the general accessibility survey program presently in place.

Chris announced that Michelle Moss's work with IU's IT students will soon result in having a digital survey available. Features of the survey emphasize the need to expand digital accessibility which would result in increased engagement with the disability community and increased diversity. The committee anticipates that a draft of the digital survey will be ready for the February CCA meeting.

Members in attendance then broke into groups (Transportation & Mobility, Activities & Events, and Accessibility) to brainstorm goals for 2022. Afterwards, each chair of the three committees summarized their group's discussion:

Transportation and Mobility--Barbara Salisbury--The group felt that BT Access is not well understood; pilot microtransit should occur soon. As the Bloomington Transit has a new manager, perhaps he could be invited to speak at an upcoming CCA meeting.

Activities and Events--Susan Russ--The interconnectivity goal from 2021 should be continued through 2022, with emphasis on including the deaf community and a mental health component. Signature events could possibly focus on these two communities. A speaker from a mental health organization might speak at an upcoming CCA meeting. An effort to invite younger participants to meetings and events would increase diversity.

Accessibility--Chris Jackson--Though much more work needs to be done in the area of digital accessibility, it is hoped that the survey will be completed and ready for use by the end of the semester. Possibly a web developer could be invited to speak at a future CCA meeting. Whereas businesses who achieve accessibility are recognized with a decal, how to recognize businesses that are digitally accessible remains to be determined.

Katie asked the three chairpersons to send this information to her so that a compact and concise summary may be presented at the February meeting. As the Council will be involved in finalizing goals and action steps at that meeting, there will be no speaker. Susan asked that the Activities and Events Committee meet soon after the February meeting in order to begin planning for Breaking Down the Barriers event.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:19 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford