

Council for Community Accessibility
Meeting Notes for February 28, 2022, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Michael Shermis opened the meeting by Zoom at 4:00 p.m.; members introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their positions on the council.

Members: Michelle Hahn, David Carter, Zoe Waters, Barbara Salisbury, Chris Jackson, Katie Herron, Eli McCormick, Iris Kiesling, Robin Walker, Kristen King, Julie Miller, Lesley Davis and Linda Crawford.

Staff: Michael Shermis, Michelle Moss

Minutes: January minutes were accepted as distributed.

Financial Report: The account has been reconciled; there is a balance of \$1679.94 with no anticipated expenditures in the near future.

Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach: Barbara mentioned that the Indiana ACB will hold a joint convention with Ohio in Bloomington this year and asks that this information be conveyed to the community.

Kristen says that LIFE Designs will hold a virtual activity in April to highlight disability month. The talent show normally held in the spring will be held in October.

Julie, from Stone Belt, announced that on March 10th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., It Matters to Me, an opportunity to develop advocacy skills, will take place. Also, the second annual Belt Out Loud featuring Jim Christie will be held on May 7th at the Buskirk-Chumley.

Eli reminded Council members that there will be some bus route changes coming in August. The BT advisory committee will be meeting in a couple of month, both in-person and by Zoom. Contact Eli if you want to attend.

There will be a published list of March/April activities that celebrate disability and accessibility coming soon.

Report from the City: Michael reminded members to let him know about accessibility concerns. One current challenge involves the Courthouse square. There is a lack of working audible pedestrian signals, missing detectable warning tiles, etc. This has been reported to the Public Works and Planning departments.

New Accessibility Concerns: No new concerns were noted.

Committee Reports:

Activities and Events: The committee will meet on Thursday, March 3rd from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. by Zoom to plan for Breaking Down the Barriers.

Accessibility: The committee met via Zoom prior to the Council's meeting this afternoon, with Regina Helton from Socially Up, a local web/social media company in attendance. The committee explored web accessibility using digital accessibility tools. Questions and suggestions regarding web accessibility should be directed to Chris, Michelle, or Michael. They are hoping to engage more from the committee to be involved in the surveying of web accessibility. As far as physical surveys go, four surveys were completed, but none of the businesses are fully compliant at this time. Barbara raised the issue of looking at parking and turnaround space at apartments and new developments--is there adequate room for fire department vehicles, ambulances and other such vehicles?

Transportation and Mobility: Barbara reported that the committee is continuing to focus on pedestrian issues and learning more about what are best practices with shared streets (greenways). The committee is also planning ADA training for engineers, which will include a field experience segment, for the Engineering department. The committee will have an opportunity to meet BT's new general manager, John Connell, at its next committee meeting on March 21st.

Continuation of 2022 Planning: Michael posted the summary of the 2022 goals developed at the January 2022 CCA meeting. It was suggested augmenting the Activities and Events goal to include CCA outreach to young adult groups at county high schools, IU, Stonebelt, etc., including examining various marketing strategies to reach this audience.

The Transportation and Mobility Committee will continue to explore the Transition Plan in 2022 before the Council reviews it. There are still numerous questions shared by the residents of the City and the County about BT Access and the committee would like to address those questions during the year so as to increase understanding of BT Access's service.

Report from the Chair: Michael is finishing up the CCA's annual report which will list the goals for 2022. Barbara requested people send questions that can be asked of BT's new general manager, as well as questions that are related to the Transition Plan, BT Access, and microtransit. Eli requested that if there are places served by BT that need to be surveyed, let Michael or Chris know. Chris announced that the next meeting of the Accessibility Committee is March 28th at 2:45 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford