

**Council for Community Accessibility Meeting  
Notes for April 25, 2022, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

Katie Heron opened the hybrid meeting at 4:00 p.m. welcoming members attending in person, as well as members attending via Zoom.

Members: David Carter, Zoe Waters, Barbara Salisbury, Barbara McKinney, Chris Jackson, Katie Herron, Eric Ford, Susan Seizer, John Brady, Sam Dove, Mary Boutain, Tommy Cunningham, Robin Walker, Amanda Bagwell, Jeffery, Susan Russ and Linda Crawford.

Staff: Michael Shermis, Michelle Moss

Guests: Adam Henze, Indiana Institute on Disability and Community and Devta Kidd, Director of Innovation, City of Bloomington

**Minutes:** March minutes were accepted as distributed.

**Financial Report:** Michael reported a balance of \$1679.94 with an anticipated expense of \$525 for the bus advertisement that will debut the first week in May.

**Guest Presentation:** Adam opened his presentation with a couple poems before providing statistics on the connection between illiteracy, drop-out rates, and disabilities. He stressed that support for institutional education suffers from lack of access, funding, and resources, deficient communication infrastructure, adequate staffing, prioritization, and attitudinal buy-in. Describing visuals that are used and sharing PowerPoint presentations beforehand helps in mitigating problems for those who have a visibility problem. He emphasized that prisons are the most restrictive learning environments, but using poetry as a tool opens doors for the inmates.

Devta Kidd explained the progress on a portion of the 2018 sidewalk goal. The City is looking at where sidewalks are presently located with attention to gaps in their existence and connectedness of the sidewalk network. She mentioned that many do not realize that repair and maintenance for sidewalks in front of houses is the responsibility of the property owner. The City will explore solutions to the current sidewalk problem; public meetings will be held on July 1 and 21 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. with the recruitment of testers to commence on August 29. Devta can be reached at [kidd@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:kidd@bloomington.in.gov).

**Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach:**

Tommy announced a monthly Self Advocate group meeting at Stone Belt on the first Monday of each month and to contact Nancy Smith for more information.

Susan reported that the MALL will open on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Monroe County Public Library for people who wish to borrow donated mobility aids. The library will store smaller items and larger items will be stored at Anderson Medical Product's

facility. Forms for donating items and requests for items to be borrowed will be available; representatives from MALL will be available to answer questions over e-mail (mallbloomington@gmail.com).

Barbara Salisbury announced that Heartland American Council for the Blind is holding a fundraiser tonight—a portion of your tab from eating at Buscetto's will be donated to ACB. Also, the Transportation and Mobility engineering training will take place on May 11<sup>th</sup>. This hands-on event will provide interacting within Bloomington's infrastructure with the City engineers to find ways to make pedestrian facilities and transportation more accessible.

Eric announced that Stone Belt will hold a Dine and Donate at Switchyard Brewery on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3-10 and then on May 7 Belt Out Loud will be held at the Buskirk Chumley from 7:30-10:30.

**Report from the City:** Michael informed the Council that the Accessibility Mobility Principles will go to the mayor for perusal and approval and then to the City Council.

**New Accessibility Concerns:** Tommy expressed the opinion of several people he has talked to that there needs to be increased funding for Bloomington Transit bus drivers.

**Committee Reports:**

**Activities and Events:** Susan reported that planning is underway for celebration of the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the ADA. The location has yet to be determined.

**Accessibility:** Chris reported that two new City parking garages (Trade District and 4<sup>th</sup> Street) have complied with ADA survey standards now and will receive decals. The Boys and Girls Club at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Lincoln is very close to meeting requirements for the decal. The Bloomington Boogies event in August, to be held at multiple venues, will necessitate checking accessibility at those sites.

Information has been prepared for small businesses to assist them in making their websites accessible. There is still much work to be done, but the progress is encouraging.

**Transportation and Mobility:** The committee's report is included in the Report from the City.

**Additional Information on Related Accessibility Items:** Mary Boutain, American Red Cross Program Specialist, spoke about building resilient communities with the desire to collaborate with the CCA.

Videos created at the TikTok workshop led by Annie Burdick were viewed by CCA members and given high praise. The videos can be viewed at CCAccessibility.

**Report from the Chair:** Katie reported that there will be no CCA meeting in May.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Crawford