

**Council for Community Accessibility
Meeting Notes for August 29, 2022, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

Because of technical difficulties in utilizing Zoom, in Katie Herron's absence, Michael Shermis opened the hybrid meeting 4:00 p.m.

Members: Zoe Waters, Barbara Salisbury, Chris Jackson, Barbara McKinney, Karin Willison, Katie Anderson, Susan Seizer, Sara Frommer, Eric Ford, Marche Daughtry, and Linda Crawford.

Staff: Michael Shermis

Guest Presenter: Jessica Stephens, TC Steele State Historic Site, Jeff Jackson, Transportation Demand Manager for City of Bloomington

Minutes: June minutes were accepted as distributed.

Financial Report: Balance remains at \$1,194.54.

Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach: There were no reports from organizations.

Report from the City: Michael reported that the Transition Plan is almost complete; a time to review it needs to be set and from there, it will be sent to the COB City Council. This plan focuses more on people and less on infrastructure than past reports.

Eleven areas of sidewalk concerns were reviewed to be considered for the sidewalk innovation. From the eleven areas, the sidewalk committee, headed by Devta Kidd, COB's Director of Innovation, has selected to develop the concept of collaboration with the Sanitation Department on bin placement for trash and recycling pickup. Finding a solution will create more accessible sidewalks.

New Accessibility Concerns: A question was raised concerning the responsibility of apartment complexes to comply with accessibility guidelines. Barbara McKinney said that there is a form available for tenants to provide information about their accessibility complaints.

Karin Willison said that crossing the street to reach the Convention Center is dangerous as the incline is too steep. It was suggested that a UReport be filed, making sure to mention accessibility concerns.

There are no sidewalk curb cuts between Maxwell Lane and Second Street.

Committee Reports:

Activities and Events: Susan and Lesley, co-chairs of the Fall event "Gather Round the Table for an Accessible Journey" said that the event will feature five speakers sharing their experiences of traveling abroad. There will also be an activity and guided discussion that occurs between the four courses of small plates and dessert. Susan's outline for the event sparked the interest of Kristin,

Suzanna, Coleman, and Marche, all of whom volunteered to help with the planning. Michael will include a "save the date" in the next newsletter.

Accessibility: Chris reported that four places of business have been surveyed: Soma East has some parking and restroom corrections to make; The Elm has only to correct or add signage for the restrooms; WonderLab has paper towel holders that are too high to meet accessibility standards; and the COB Cascades Golf Clubhouse, has fixed their parking issues and is now compliant. Chris is hoping that Breaking down the Barriers will resume in April of 2023 so that decals can be awarded along with a celebration of businesses meeting accessibility standards. The Committee will continue their work on the process of local businesses adding digital access for patrons.

Transportation and Mobility: Michael introduced Jeff Jackson, Transportation Demand Manager, City of Bloomington, who explained the program Go Bloomington. The program is to provide mobility options for better transportation options in Bloomington. The program will be launched at Showers Plaza on September 6th.

Barbara invited Jeff to attend the next Transportation and Mobility Committee meeting to be held on September 12th. She said the committee is looking for its next project, but in the meantime, the Accessible Transportation and Mobility Principles are in the Mayor's office waiting to be scheduled for City Council review. The American Council for the Blind is holding their convention of November 11th with a possible presentation of scooters.

Guest Presentation: Jessica Stephens, in her presentation, utilized photos taken at T.C. Steele historic site to provide background for the historic home of the Indiana painter. Following the presentation of the background of the site, Jessica described accessible additions made in updating the site. The new parking lot has accessible spaces and there is a ramp into the house. Upcoming projects include adding a ramp to the large studio and paving it to increase accessibility. They hope to add on-site programs for youth and adults with disabilities, as well as provide outreach to facilities.

Report from the Chair: Elections will be held at the November meeting; Katie will answer questions from interested persons who wish to serve as committee chairpersons or serve on the executive board.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:23 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford