

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

The hybrid meeting was opened at 4:00 p.m.

Members: Zoe Waters, Sara Frommer, Eric Wood, Katie Herron, Katie Anderson, David Carter, Barbara McKinney, Marche Daughtery, Lesley Davis, Christina Kempf, Susan Russ, Karin Willison, Taylor Firestine

City Staff: Michael Shermis, Beth Rosenbarger

Guest Presenter: Sarah Cassavaugh, IN*SOURCE

Minutes: October minutes were accepted as distributed.

Financial Report: We have \$750.84 at present, lowest we have been in many years. While we raised \$2,800 for Gather, we were about \$130 short of the expenses (Convention Center, catering, audio, and ASL interpreters). This lower balance will be relevant when planning new events

Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach: Christina Kempf, from Monroe County Health Department discussed public health emergency preparedness. A home and car preparedness kit information was provided. She planted a seed for those who haven't considered steps to take toward personal preparedness and for those who already had as a reminder to review and make additions as needed to plans and emergency kits. She said she would provide links to some of the most important info and those are below. She suggested a Grab & Go binder to print out a template and fill it out saying it will be useful during the year, not just during a time of disaster (it would include phone #'s inside your kit so they are ready to go, account # info). It's an item you would grab in the event if a disaster for which you would need to evacuate (along with other things you can't pack ahead of time like power cords, medication, assistive devices, etc.). She mentioned that it's smart to review the info periodically to ensure everything is up-to-date. Michael is happy to send the binder if requested or go to <https://simplefamilypreparedness.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Simply-Prepared-Binder.pdf>.

Christina also promoted Smart 911 and suggested everyone create a profile for their households.

Michael will insert the links into the minutes:

Smart911 –

- Overview: <https://bloomington.in.gov/public-safety/special-needs-registry>
- Phone App info: <https://safety.smart911.com/smart911app>

Ready.gov info - <https://www.ready.gov/disability> (building a kit, creating a plan, etc. TONS of info!)

The question was raised as to whether it will work with cell phones [it will] and Christina said she would get back with us. She also mentioned that there will be a flu and Covid shot clinic at St. Paul's westside church on Wednesday 11/30, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Eric Ford mentioned the Stone Belt Art Fair will be Saturday, December 3, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., at Stone Belt on 10th & Bypass. It will also be up at Rose Hill Farm Stop, Lennie's, and Engraving and Stamp Center.

There were positive words and recognition paid, as well as cake, to Susan Russ who recently retired from Stone Belt and stepped down as long-time chair of the Activities and Events.

Report from the City: Beth Rosenbarger, Assistant Director of Planning and Transportation, talked about the College and Walnut corridor study. These roads have been identified for updating because of safety and improvement needs. Besides people driving too fast, the corridor, which starts at the Bypass, is seen as the front door to Bloomington. The process for this study is to analyze existing conditions and include curb cuts and crossing distances. Then to take goals from the analysis and come up with conceptual designs that are physically possible to build. The process will start in early June. There will be a public design charrette and public meetings. In the Winter/Spring of 2023, there will be hosted walks along the corridor with the intent of specifically inviting CCA members to participate, as well as having a CCA member on the steering committee. Michael pointed out that this is exactly the City living up to involving people with disabilities at an early stage. If you're interested in being involved in any of this process or serving, please let Michael know. The time commitment would be 4-6 meetings of 1.5 hours each.

Michael discussed the Transition Plan going to the City Council on December 7th. He reminded people that he spoke about the Plan in a national webinar with over 250 people a couple months ago. It was used as a model plan because of how it focused on people and the presentation of the data.

New Accessibility Concerns: The trough at the corner of Kirkwood and Walnut, north side of the Southwest corner, has been fixed so that wheelchairs are now able to cross without any issues. There are still concerns about tree limbs for the visually impaired. Michael asked that people continue to report these issues through uReport and put "accessibility" in the subject line so he can follow up on them.

Committee Reports:

Activities and Events: Karin Willison agreed to be the Breaking down the Barriers event chair. Budget for this event runs around \$600 for the meal and swag for the thanks to accessible businesses. Karin asked about grant opportunities or sales of merchandise (i.e., t-shirts). Michael will keep his eyes open for grant opportunities and talk with the Controller's office about merchandise sales.

Katie suggested adding MALL updates to the agenda so we can receive a regular update of all that's going on with the MALL. Christina suggested the Wheelie Women consider visiting senior living or retirement homes with MALL mobility devices. She thought Meadowood may have a large amount of equipment they don't use anymore. Michael will find a contact and connect with them.

Accessibility: Karin and David, talked about the ongoing effort to do surveys for Breaking down the Barriers event. Michael mentioned that Christina recently went through surveyor training and did the Athletico (eastside) facility.

Transportation and Mobility: Michael let people know there is an upcoming meeting in December but the November meeting was cancelled due to Barbara Salisbury, the Chair, having to run a conference for the American Council of the Blind in Bloomington over that time period.

Guest Presentation: Sara Cassavaugh, from IN*SOURCE (www.insource.org), presented about her work there. She is a parent of a child with a disability, as most IN*SOURCE employees are. IN*SOURCE's mission is to provide high quality information, training, and support to families of children and young adults with disabilities and the individuals and organizations who serve them. They are a volunteer program for parents of individuals with disabilities who want to help other families. Their assistance is provided to families at no cost. They help by having regional offices throughout Indiana, individual phone assistance, parent training classes, and support at school meetings.

They have two upcoming trainings: "Communicating with Schools: Collaborative Strategies for Positive Outcomes" (December 7th, in person, Columbus--contact INSOURCE@INSOURCE.org) and "The Individual Education Program (IEP)" (December 8th, on Zoom). Contact Sara at 812-380-1249 if you have any questions or needs.

Report from the Chair: No report from the Chair, but we did hold elections. The slate of Lesley Davis as Chair, Linda Crawford as Secretary, Eric Ford and David Carter as at-large members of the Executive Committee was put forward. The vote was unanimous. David decided to retire from the Vice Chair position and so we still need that slot filled. Much appreciation was shown to Katie and David for leading us for so many years.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30 p.m.
Minutes taken by Lesley Davis