

**Council for Community Accessibility  
Meeting Notes for January 30, 2023, 4:00-6:00 p.m.**

The hybrid meeting was opened at 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Lesley Davis.

Members: Lesamarie Hacker, Lesley Davis, Chris Jackson, Karin Willison, John Brady, Marche Daughtery, Eric Ford, Jessie Van Buskirk, Anna Thompson Jones, David Carter, Deborah Meyerson, Zoe Water, Tami Schneiderman, Nick Philbeck and Linda Crawford  
City Staff: Michael Shermis

January's meeting focused on planning for 2023:

**A. Increasing Advocacy**

1. Mayoral Candidate Forum: Stone Belt and CCA will co-sponsor a forum to meet the mayoral candidates on March 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at City Hall.
2. Indiana Council for the Deaf has inquired about a city-wide ordinance for captioning TV presentations. This step would provide more inclusive with the deaf community. The ASL class at IU, taught by Rob Loveless, hopes to include more accessibility in campus activities.
3. City Council/MPO and Accessible Transportation and Mobility Principles—Deborah reported that at the City's December meeting, the City considered a resolution that goes beyond ADA's requirements. The City departments are encouraged not to make plans about accessibility without input from the CCA and the community it serves. The desire is to have more comprehensive and deliberate attention to the needs of those with low vision and mobility issues. Steve Volan has offered to submit the resolution. A question was raised about CCA's part in getting the resolution passed.

**B. Considering CCA's Latest Efforts**

1. MALL-Mobility Aids Lending Library has been in operation since May, 2022. Chris says that this service has surpassed what was originally expected. The Library is working on procedures so that a library card holder can check out an item which would expedite the process. The City of Bloomington website has a link that provides information on how to donate items. The MALL committee meets on the last Sunday of the month. Current concerns involve providing directions on how to use certain aids, sanitary issues, listing pediatric items, etc.
2. Accessibility Brochure/Website—It was suggested that a website/brochure provide more information about accessibility for visitors and new residents. Visit Bloomington is willing to provide some form of exposure of different venues/dates regarding accessibility. Karin and Lesamarie volunteered to strategize about the most accessible restaurants and add to current listings, as well as look into other cities' handling of the listings. Michael's intern, Lindsey, will join Karin and Lesamarie to further discuss this.
3. Lego Ramp Project—this idea was introduced by Lesley. She observed that ramps that are constructed from Legos and glue are used to make entry over one-step entrances to shops in Germany accessible. The Legos are creatively designed to portray the

business using the Lego ramp. In Bloomington, there are not a lot of businesses with just one-step entry, but a couple downtown were discussed. The Bloomington Lego project would need donations of Legos and could involve kids, SICIL and other interested groups. Anna is working on a grant for ramps for the people she services. To determine if this project is feasible, measurements, etc., are needed.

C. Reflecting on our Events

1. Gather 'Round the Table did not have many travel agents at the event that featured traveling with disabilities. Theme for this year?
2. Breaking Down the Barriers—there are businesses that would qualify for a decal except that their parking lots are out of compliance, but beyond the businesses' control. Proposed date for this year's event is the first week in May. After visiting businesses who have earned the decal and presenting them with a small gift, participants normally enjoy dinner at an accessible restaurant. The cost of the event usually runs from \$400-\$500.
3. ADA Anniversary Celebration—This July will be the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the ADA. Twelve organizations participated last year, possibly fifteen this year.

D. Reviewing Committee Work

1. Accessibility—Chris is looking for additional surveyors who would be provided with a couple training sessions. Some gray areas showed up in the latest surveys so Michael will send a letter to those businesses. As far as the digital website surveying tool, the committee hopes that the ongoing process will provide more understanding and attention to the complex problem of creating a website accessibility survey.
2. Transportation and Mobility—Last year the committee focused on the Principles; this year the committee is exploring the next steps for the committee's work.

E. Increasing Alliances—SICIL intends to work more closely with the CCA; the ASL class and club will share information from CCA with the disability office on campus.

F. Speakers at meetings and events—In February, Holly Elkins will speak about captioning. Perhaps in March Andrew Cibor will speak to the question of more enforcement in building accessibility.

G. Michael will publish in the next newsletter the review of 2022 goals.

H. Groups of three discussed possible goals for the CCA to pursue for the year.

I. Report from small groups—Karin mentioned that finding personal care assistance is difficult and that advocating and networking for assistance is important as well as raising awareness of job availability. Lesley will participate in the Community Corner at IU on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The group also stressed the importance of ASL class and club involvement with CCA. Chris reported that efforts for outreach to the deaf community should be continued this year. There is a lack of knowledge about the deaf community and their accessibility needs, language barriers, etc. Captioning is a problem as well as microphone inadequacy for zoom meetings. The organization survey should be examined to check accessibility to improve its tool. Resources are available for domestic violence if needed. Cierra is a contact and there is a website at [in.disability.justice.org](http://in.disability.justice.org). Zoe mentioned that her group decided that there needs to be better training for public transportation, including signage. Lesley reported that her group suggested that survey points such as "order here" signs be included in the present survey. Asking those with vision disabilities what they would like to see added to the survey would be useful. Also, repeating the restaurant staff training was recommended because of the great turnover of wait staff. Training could be expanded to new businesses and a larger audience. A small committee could work on the Lego project, using Zoe's connections, if the Council would like to include this activity at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Minutes taken by Linda Crawford, Secretary