

**Council for Community Accessibility  
Meeting Notes for March 27, 2023, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

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

Members: Lesley Davis, Chris Jackson, Karin Willison,, Marche Daughtery, Casey Guarino, Nick Philbeck, Eric Ford, Matt Norris, Zoe Waters, Shu Cole, David Carter, John Brady, Don Griffin and Linda Crawford

Guest Presenter: Andrew Cibor, Director, Engineering Department, City of Bloomington

City Staff: Michael Shermis, Rick Dietz, Audrey Brittingham, Jeremy Herhusky-Schneider

**Guest Presentation:** Andrew Cibor gave an overview of the City of Bloomington Engineering Department and how it works with all departments and especially closely with the Planning Department. He explained that the Planning Department will pick and prioritize projects and then send that information on to the Engineering Department; the Engineering Department then provides details to all departments that are utilized in the completion of the project. Currently the department is focused on public spaces.

Chris inquired about renovations on buildings that are not accessible. As the county issues the building permits, there is the potential for oversight in the influence of the state and building code and the city planning. The county building committee serves as an advisor to city planning.

Lesley asked about the proposed one-step Lego ramps which would not be a permanent structure, and also does not meet the ADA requirement of a 10-12 percent slope. A question was raised about measuring the safety of the Lego ramps.

The City Council is reviewing the 7<sup>th</sup> Street project. The all-way stop at Dunn and 7<sup>th</sup> Street will be reinstated, but other potential all-way stops remains under discussion. A request for more pedestrian warning signals to be used would make this street more ADA compliant.

**Minutes:** February minutes were accepted as printed and distributed.

**Financial Report:** Michael reported a balance of \$750.89.

**Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach:** Eric provided a calendar of events for Stone Belt's art exhibits: The library will host an exhibit of the art from 6:30-7:30 on March 30<sup>th</sup>, at Rainbow Bakery on April 7<sup>th</sup>, at Bloomington High School South on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Stone Belt Art will be on display at Ivy Tech on April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the art will be featured in the Bloom Art Show at Convention Center.

**Report from the City:** Rick Dietz, Director, City of Bloomington, ITS Department, reported that the department is working to improve the City's website for the general public. Training is planned for those who interface with the public to ensure that digital documents are accessible. He encouraged council members and others to send ideas and content questions to him.

**New Accessibility Concerns from Members/Visitors:** Casey reported that the new cement around the light posts in the City lot makes it difficult to navigate and the blacktop and cement on ramps are not properly aligned, thus creating puddles when it rains.

**Committee Reports:**

**Accessibility Committee:** Chris reported that two new businesses were recently surveyed—Chicken Salad Chick, which earned an AccessAbility decal, and CPR Phone Repair. While the inside of CPR is accessible, the path to the building is not. A question was raised concerning the business acquiring building permit approval before the renovation. Chris reminded Council members that Breaking down the Barriers is set for May 8<sup>th</sup> for the College Mall area businesses.

**Transportation and Mobility Committee:** Deb Meyerson and Michael have assembled a team from the city comprised of a person with disabilities, an elderly person, a caregiver, and people from a transportation provider, local government and a health care provider. If this team is selected to attend a conference, the committee will be responsible for completing a project afterwards.

In a separate presentation, Matt Norris reported that a survey used by Rushville (Rushville has a council similar to Bloomington's) might be a useful needs assessment for Bloomington to utilize. Questions to consider include what are Bloomington's guidelines for serving the community. Might training for BT Access and Beloved providers be useful? Revamping the accessibility survey might uncover other areas that need attention. Could IU's School of Public Health be involved? Should certain aspects of housing be included?

**Activities and Events Committee:** Breaking down the Barriers will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 7:00. Decals and small gifts of thanks will be distributed, followed by participants dining at Red Robin. Michael will include a registration form in the April communication.

**Report from the Chair:** Lesley asked Chris to explain the proposed changes for checking out mobility aids from MALL. The mobility aids will be circulated from the Library of Things and may be checked out as long as they are needed. Liability forms will still be required. This new procedure is planned to be in place by the end of June. Chris will continue to look over the items, but there are no plans to make individual adjustments. As far as repairs to the items, perhaps volunteers could be solicited to work in this capacity.

Leslie summed up the Council's goals for 2023 as advocacy, alliances and inclusion.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Crawford, Secretary