

**Council for Community Accessibility
Meeting Notes for April 24, 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, John Brady, Eric Ford, Zoe Waters, Barbara McKinney, Iris Keisling and Linda Crawford
Guest Presenter: Steven Miller, Veteran Services Officer, Monroe County
City Staff: Michael Shermis, Kelly Murphy, Wayne Parkinson, Beth Rosenbarger

Guest Presentation: Steven Miller, Monroe County Officer of Veteran Services, offered a power point presentation describing services offered to the 7,115 veterans in Monroe County. Of those veterans, 2,189 are receiving medical care, including the 1,657 with a disability. Challenges to his office's services and outreach include cost of living and affordable housing. Veterans with a 10% disability are also challenged with finding work that will support them. The VA makes use of a rating scale to determine the actual percent of disability. Steven mentioned that at this time, every county in Indiana has a Veteran Services Officer.

Minutes: March minutes were accepted as printed and distributed.

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

Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach: Eric announced that the Belt Out Loud concert, featuring Hank Ruff, which will support Stone Belt, will be held at the Buskirk-Chumley on May 13th at 8:00. Tickets are \$20.

Chris said that the new library is scheduled to open on June 9. Chris will informally complete an ADA survey prior to opening and check availability of bus stops nearby.

New Accessibility Concerns from Members/Visitors MarChe said that the elevator in a parking garage that she frequently uses was not working.

The Millers-Showers parking lot was reported to have temporary barriers and cones, but when a survey of the parking lot was made, no problem was detected.

The parklets on Kirkwood do not need to be accessible if there is a comparable outdoor seating is otherwise accessible at the restaurant.

Report from the City: Michael reported a complaint concerning an awning on a business that is an inch too low for a very tall sidewalk pedestrian. As the ADA guidelines do not address this situation, no action is required.

Beth Rosenbarger, Assistant Director, Planning and Transportation Department, City of Bloomington, gave a brief overview of the Walnut Street and College Avenue corridor study. The absence of sidewalks and condition of existing sidewalks, curb ramps, bus stops, car crashes, etc. will be studied. Double-parking when trucks are loading and unloading in front of businesses will be looked into as this common situation poses a problem for both drivers and pedestrians. The purpose of the study is to find ways to make the streets work for more people. Beth outlined a schedule for Bloomington residents to provide input.

Committee Reports:

Accessibility Committee: Chris reported that two sites were recently surveyed—an art gallery that had a significant number of barriers, and the Boys and Girls Club which recently underwent major remodeling. The few barriers at the Boys and Girls Club were readily corrected and the building is now completely accessible. The digital access project is still in progress and an intern is working on updating SmartSheet.

Transportation and Mobility Committee: The submitted application for a proposed project for the Accessible Transportation Institute was not accepted. The transportation needs of the community may be the focus of a needs assessment and there's a possibility of having an IU class help with this. There's been progress on getting the Transportation and Mobility Principles to a resolution that will soon be ready for presentation to the City Council.

Activities and Events Committee: Breaking down the Barriers will be held on May 8th from 4:00 to 7:00. Instructions will be given to those participating, followed by groups distributing decals and small gifts to businesses that have recently earned a decal. This portion of the event should be concluded around 5:15-5:30; dinner at Red Robin afterwards.

MALL: The mobility aids available for checking out are being incorporated into the Library of Things—this should be completed by July or August. Until that time, Chris will continue to oversee checking the mobility items out.

Report from the Chair: Lesley will provide a list of the Council's goals for 2023 and the progress toward achieving the goals for submission in the coming month's CCA newsletter. Lesley shared with Council members that a gentleman has expressed interest in constructing a Lego ramp; one business has requested a Lego ramp. As a large number of Legos will be required for a ramp, it was suggested that social media be utilized to seek donated Legos. Possible sites for donation of Legos included Stone Belt, MCCSC schools, MCPL, American Legion, etc., will be contacted to ascertain their agreement to serve as collection sites.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Crawford, Secretary