

Council for Community Accessibility
June 26, 2023 Minutes
4:00-5:30 p.m.

Members: Lesley Davis, Chris Jackson, Karin Willison, Marche Daughtery, Casey Guarino, John Brady, Eric Ford, Iris Keisling, Lesamarie Hacker, Susan Gray, Aaron Smith, Danielle Perdue, Susan Seizer, Martin Homan, Michelle Hahn, Nick Philbeck, Tonda Radewan, Kristen King, and Linda Crawford, Desiree Branaman

Guest Presenters: John Connell, General Manager, and Kathy Schultz, Manager of Marketing and Development, Bloomington Transit

City Staff: Michael Shermis

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

Guest Presentation: John Connell, General Manager, Bloomington Transit spoke about BTAccess, public transportation provided for individuals with disabilities who are unable to use Bloomington Transit Service. BTAccess operates along the same fixed routes with the same hours. A client is provided service after completing an application which is either approved, denied, or accepted upon conditional availability. Reservations for service must be made twenty-four hours in advance. Planning is underway to implement same day scheduling, limiting clients to two trips/day. In Bloomington Transit's overall planning, BT is looking at where additional bus stops are needed, as well as doing a complete survey of bus stops in the city. Other plans include expanding the microtransit portion of the bus service which would provide more on-demand service. Currently there is one driver, every night, who accessible vehicle service. Bloomington Transit now provides regular bus service to 10:00 pm., rather than midnight.

Minutes: April minutes were accepted as printed and distributed.

Financial Report: Michael reported a balance of \$362.01; upcoming expenses will include purchase of cookies to be distributed at the July celebration of the ADA.

Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach: There were no reports.

New Accessibility Concerns from Members/Visitors: There was a report that the elevator in the Morton Parking Garage is not working.

When a person comes upon debris blocking a normally accessible path, a UReport should be completed.

Martin is trying to get a group for amputees started.

Rehab hospital resources are located near Ellettsville.

.

Report from the City: Michael reported that a spur off the B-line trail will be added that is near Allen Street. Accessibility is a concern so engineers/planners consulted with him to ensure it is as accessible as it can be.

Casey and Susan joined Michael in assessing the College/Walnut corridor study for accessibility, by looking for locations of missing sidewalks, inadequate curb cuts, raised sidewalks, etc.

Committee Reports:

Accessibility Committee: Chris reported that two sites were recently surveyed—PALS has a minor accessibility deficit which is easily addressed, and the new Southwest branch of the MCPL has a few minor deficits. The library also needs to add an accessible sidewalk to the amphitheater stage. The IU Cinema can accommodate 2-4 wheelchairs but there is no ramp to enter the building. The committee feels it will be difficult to have this situation corrected.

Transportation and Mobility Committee: Development of the Transportation and Housing Survey is in its early stages. When completed, students from the School of Public Health will assist in in-person as well as online surveying. Results of the survey would be sent to the City Council.

Activities and Events Committee: The ADA Celebration will be held from 9:00 to Noon on Saturday, July 29th at the Showers Plaza. Several organization, including Stonebelt, MCPL. Human Rights Commission, SICIL, Special Olympics and MALL and others, will provide activities and giveaways. The Fall Event, Gather 'Round the Table, will take place sometime between the end of October and the beginning of November. Michael asked for suggestions for a theme and volunteers to help plan the event.

MALL: This service has become very successful, but it needs to be advertised more on Facebook and on Instagram. As Anderson Medical can no longer store the larger donated power mobility aids, Karin has been storing them in her garage until a new storage place can be located. Anderson is still able to provide potential repairs to power mobility aids, but it is necessary to find a volunteer who will repair manual appliances. Karin has created a new flyer advertising MALL.

Report from the Chair: Lesley mentioned that a tribute to the late David Carter will appear in the next newsletter. Council members inquired as to how his memory might be honored—possibly at the July ADA celebration?

Meeting was adjourned at 5:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary