

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

The hybrid meeting was opened at 4:00 p.m. by Michael Shermis for Lesley Davis. Lesley soon arrived and lead the rest of the meeting.

Members: Lesley Davis, Chris Jackson, Karin Willison, Marche Daughtery, Martin Homan, Kristen King, Kathy Schultz, John Brady, Karin Willison, Desiree Branaman, Curtis Wainman, and Linda Crawford

City Staff: Michael Shermis

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

**Financial Report:** Michael reported a balance of \$341.29 after payment for renting the pavilion at Switchyard Park for "Gather Round the Table and depositing the Kiwanis donation.

**Partner Organizations Awareness and Outreach:** Chris reported that rollators are now available for use at the library.

Kathy reported that Bloomington Transit is moving ahead on the route from Bloomington to Ellettsville and vice versa. The county commissioners are meeting this week about proposed changes in Rural Transit. Kathy is hopeful that there will be information available by early December about the proposed new route. Also, Bloomington Transit ridership is also up.

Stonebelt's Pancake Breakfast will be held on Friday, December 8 from 9:00 to 1:00. That weekend (Friday and Saturday) Stonebelt will also feature an all-ability choir, artwork, cards and calendars for sale. In April, Autism Awareness month will be celebrated with Stonebelt partnering with a couple other organizations.

CIP is sponsoring a winter coat drive. Boxes will be placed at Kroger stores for donations; distribution of coats to Shalom most likely.

**New Accessibility Concerns from Members/Visitors:** No new concerns listed this month.

**Guest Presentation:** Bobby Larue, Monroe County Building Commissioner, spoke to Council members about the connection between Monroe County building code and the ADA. He emphasized that the Building Code Commission has no authority to enforce the ADA law, but with the renovation of a building which in turn affects the occupancy of the building, the code requires that the building must conform to ADA specifications.

There are exemptions, however—for example, converting a small residency to a small business. Chapter 34 of the code excludes requirement for accessibility for assembly.

The State of Indiana overrules local jurisdiction and there is no process of appeal. Local building codes must enforce the Indiana building code.

A question was raised about additions to existing buildings. Bobby explained that only the new addition must comply with ADA's accessibility standards, though the building code covers situations when exiting in case of emergency might occur.

CCA continues to be a resource for suggestions and will work with the Monroe County Building Commission to inform businesses which are considering renovation of the federal ADA laws.

**Report from the City:** Michael reported that the proposed ordinance on closed captioning in restaurants and bars is being finalized before it goes before the City Council. The Human Rights Commission will be charged with enforcement. It was decided that fines would not be levied; instead, complaints for noncompliance would follow the normal procedure of handling complaints. The Human Rights Commission has approved the ordinance; CCA voted to support the ordinance as well. If adopted by the City Council, it would require a period of 2 years to implement it.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Accessibility Committee:** Chris reported that two new surveys have been completed; the My Thai restaurant has a few readily achievable shortcomings to correct—parking lot signs and striping and a couple minor items in the rest rooms—and Michael will send them a letter explaining what is required before the restaurant receives a decal. The Bloomington Innovation Lab has significant accessibility deficits and would need major renovation before it could be awarded a decal. Chris also emphasized that surveyors are needed.

**Transportation and Mobility Committee:** The committee is continuing to seek funding for the Housing and Transportation survey. They hope to meet with the city grant specialist to help with an application for funds.

**Activities and Events Committee:** The October 'Gather round the Table' event received good reviews from those in attendance. Suggestions included having the panelists describe the visual images on the screen to provide additional information, as well as helping those who are visually challenged. The next event is Breaking down the Barriers, which will be held in the spring.

**MALL:** The organization has reached the final LLC status so that a bank account can be opened. The group plans to have business card available. Current mobility needs include rollators and manual wheelchairs. Chris has submitted a grant to purchase twenty-five rollators. The group has been considering ways of raising money for MALL.

**Report from the Chair:** Lesley announced that the chairs of the four committees will meet next Thursday to review 2023 goals and to set goals for 2024.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Crawford, Secretary