

Meeting Notes for September 25, 2017, 4:00-5:30

Katie Herron called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Members: Katie Herron, Jeannette Shere-Thomas, Chris Jackson, Chris Cutshall, Jon Lyon, Coleman Kavgian, Sneha Dave, Janesh Karnati, Rachel Guglielmo, Melissa Stone, Iris Kiesling, Nick Philbeck, Zoe Waters, Susan Russ and Linda Crawford.

Guests: Jason Moore, Chief, City of Bloomington Fire Department

Staff: Michael Shermis

Minutes: Minutes from the June meeting were approved as printed.

Media: There was no media presented.

Report from the city: Michael reported that Kids Play City has requested CCA representation at their October 25th Sensory-Friendly Halloween Event from 3:00-7:00 pm. Katie reminded CCA members that the Council no longer actively participates in events such as this, but is willing to donate, as individual members feel inclined, crayons, bouncy balls and other nonfood items or cash to secure such treats. It is possible that Michael will be able to volunteer for part of that time to assist in handing out prizes, etc. CCA will provide publicity for this event.

Financial Report: A balance of \$5,550.21 remains, however Michael reported that the cost of the upcoming October celebration is likely to exceed the budget for the event. As there are no local city-approved interpreters, the distance that an interpreter must travel will increase that particular expense. It is hopeful that Stone Belt, LIFEDesigns, IIDC, Kiwanis and others who have provided financial support for this event in the past will do so again this year.

Guest Presentation: Jason Moore, Chief, City of Bloomington Fire Department opened his presentation with saying that though the five fire stations did not secure an accessibility decal following surveying, two stations were close to meeting ADA standards and some changes have been made. Three of the stations, fifty years old or older, were constructed when not a lot of thought was given to accessibility of a structure. However, Station 2 on the west side of the city where most of the public interaction occurs is very accessible.

It is the city's plan to build new stations in 2020-2021 and these stations will be accessible and open to everyone. Fire stations are designated as safe places which necessitates making sure that the first floors are accessible.

Jason commented on the advantages of identifying persons with disabilities—with so many factors involved in fighting fires, it is beneficial to the well-being of those trapped inside a house, as well as the firefighters, to have advance knowledge of what they are to encounter. Dispatch is using an updated Smart 911 and has plans for a comprehensive media campaign to encourage persons with accessibility concerns to have their names added to the list. This update will provide annual reminders to those who are enrolled in the Special Needs Registry about updating.

If the primary residential phone is a cell phone, or there are multiple phone numbers listed for a single home, it is now possible to provide a connection between the mobile phone(s) and an address.

The fire department provides free in-home inspections for fire and life safety and Jason encouraged CCA members to visit the website as well as use social media to encourage others to take advantage of this service. The fire department plans to hire new fire prevention officers.

The fire department offers training to firefighters in the areas of autism awareness, mental health and psychiatric needs, drug-related psychoses and dealing with individuals with difficult behavior as well as emergency medical training. The fire department typically offers about 4300 hours of training a month.

Guest Presentation: Sneha Dave and Janesh Kamati provided additional information about the upcoming Health Advocacy Summit to be held on the IUPUI campus on Saturday, October 21st. This conference was organized to help high school and college students develop self-advocacy skills that can be used at home, school or work. The Summit will provide the attendees with the opportunity to make connections and develop skills in self-advocacy. The networking lunch with professors and professionals will provide a venue for discussing career opportunities.

Sneha and Janesh have contacted high schools and associations as well as using personal connections to raise awareness of the conference. They are hoping for 20 attendees; currently there are 10 students registered. A suggestion was made to use Facebook to extend this opportunity to additional potential attendees.

New Accessibility Concerns: Rachel brought up the concern that Zoe's wheelchair is not visible at night. There is a light package that can be obtained for the wheelchair, but presently this is not covered by insurance. Rachel will research the possibility of filing a complaint. Michael suggested that Zoe and her mother submit an article for the CCA's monthly newsletter to raise awareness of the situation. Another question raised concerned the manufacturer's prerogative to build reflectivity into the wheelchair.

Report from the Chair: Katie provided an update on upcoming speakers: Mike Diekhoff from the Police Department in November, Alex Crowley from Economic Development in January, Tom Miller from Innovation in February, a representative from Bloomington Human Rights Commission in April, with the intention of having someone from Utilities to be scheduled. There is a possibility that the December CCA meeting will include planning for 2018.

Committee Reports:

- A. Accessibility Committee: Chris Jackson, chairman of the committee, announced that the committee has completed seven additional surveys, with Aromatherapy meriting a decal. Most of the businesses surveyed need some modifications before decals can be awarded.

The survey method has been updated to streamline the survey process. Though Google Maps has local guides that specifically designate accessible places, this designation results from a simplistic guideline for their designation of being accessible. Chris suggested that the committee work to get the places that have been awarded decals onto the Google maps. Chris also mentioned that the committee would like to expand the scope of surveying to include hotel rooms (in addition to lobbies) and schools.

- B. Activities and Events Committee: Susan provided details of the October 30th Annual Celebration. Rylin Rodgers, Training Director and Family Leadership Coordinator for the Riley Child Development Center will be the keynote speaker. The event will be held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church on October 30th from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. The focus is advocacy and will again provide opportunities of sharing stories of advocacy by those attending. Hearty appetizers and delicious desserts will be provided and once again, the Boy Scouts will be offering their assistance.

Reports from Affiliate Organizations and Programs/Announcements: MCAM is offering a Walkability Assessment for the Broadview community, the Community Kitchen and B-Line Trail area on Tuesday, October 24th from 1:00-5:30 pm. They are requesting RSVP's. Training for the assessment will be done beforehand by Help-By-Design. The intent of the assessment is to determine how pedestrian-friendly the neighborhood is. Participants should meet at the Bloomington Transit Center at 301 South Walnut on that day.

Zoe has been invited by Mayor John Hamilton to ride on the driverless bus on this coming Friday!

Meeting was adjourned at 5:24 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary