

Meeting Notes for January 29, 2018, 4:00-5:30

Katie Herron called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members: Katie Herron, Jeannette Shere-Thomas, Rachel Guglielmo, Zoe Waters, Susan Russ, David Carter, Barbara McKinney, Typtan Roberts, Connie Neal, Rhonda Moore, Chris Baskins, Michael Bird, Chris Jackson, Chris Cutshall, and Linda Crawford.

Guests: Alex Crowley, City of Bloomington Economic Development

Staff: Michael Shermis

Report from the city: Michael reported that Smart 911 is ready. It takes just 3-4 minutes to set up information for a new enrollee.

Michael Bird will assist Michael in setting up the display case for March Disabilities Awareness Month.

Barbara McKinney reported that as a result of recent surveying of parking spaces in the area bounded by 7th Street, 4th Street, Madison and Washington Streets, twelve more accessible spaces will be added.

Guest Presentations: Alex Crowley, from the City of Bloomington Economic Development, provided an overview of the three areas that his department oversees: traditional economic development, which examines way to retain and attract people and businesses to Bloomington, arts and culture, and sustainability of both environment and equity by building networks.

Alex provided a brief description of the major projects currently underway in Bloomington:

- Tech Park: innovation and renovation, development of roads
- New Hospital: \$400 million project with new opportunities
- Current Hospital: includes 25 which the hospital is situated upon with an additional 25 acres surrounding it. Hospital will be razed, parking garage will remain.
- Convention Center: 1% tax on prepared food will provide funding for extended convention center
- Switchyard Park: \$30 million project that will stimulate environment around it

Alex emphasized the importance of including accessibility so that in the process of city growth, the benefits reach all members of the community.

The Trades District, which encompasses 12 acres, is an innovative and job-generating site that prioritizes people over machinery as well as providing low cost opportunities for starting businesses such as utilizing co-work space. This concept addresses both physical and economic accessibility.

Alex's office has collaborated with Rhino's Youth Center to develop murals and fencing composed of creative art works. The office of Economic Development and Sustainability continues to explore ways of expanding accessibility and diversity of art practices. Alex stressed that accessibility is always considered, as well as the inclusion of new participants and neighborhood-based projects.

The bike share program is to be launched within a few months. Evaluation of vendors includes examining options for people with diverse physical needs. Suggestions and input from the community are appreciated.

Plans for affordable housing sites include areas at 10th and Rogers, along the B-line trail, the land across from the Trades District, as well on the old hospital site. Outside groups will be utilized to survey the community about possible uses of the old hospital site.

The development of a transportation plan is underway. This includes surveying, taking into consideration access to the new hospital site, how to improve transportation for all community members along with noting where bus service is presently not available.

Planning Activity: Council members separated into two groups and then brainstormed possible action steps for either 1) seeking increased coordination of activity between the Council and IU, or 2) addressing problems encountered at medical facilities by people with disabilities. Ideas from the two groups were shared with the entire council before adjournment.

The first group recommended regular and positive communication, to commence with contacting IU's ADA coordinator. Ball State might be willing to share ideas with IU or possibly involving multiple universities in a panel discussion on the topic of communication between university and community. The Governor's Council might provide help in planning the panel discussion.

The group working on the second topic suggested starting with surveying medical facilities, looking at transportation to the facilities and education necessary for improving services to people with disabilities.

New Accessibility Concerns: No new concerns were presented.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary