

Meeting Notes for February 25, 2019, 4:00-5:30

Katie Herron opened the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Members: Susan Russ, Barbara McKinney, Barbara Salisbury, Jeannette ShereThomas, Katie Herron, Iris Kiesling, Cori Mitchell, John Brady, Zoe Waters, Rachel Guglielmo, Nic Philbeck, David Carter, Lisa Salyers, Chris Cutshall, Connie Neal, Ben Foley, Zac Huneck, Trish Ierino, Natalie Sturbaum, Mike Rooker, Hannah Hirsch and Linda Crawford.

Guests: Susan Rinne (Employment First Self-Advocate Coalition), Rafi Hasan (Monroe County Community School Corporation)

Staff: Michael Shermis

Minutes: January minutes were accepted as printed.

Financial Report: There is a balance of \$3234.58 in the CCA account.

Media: Mention was made of Adria Nassim's column in the *Herald-Times*. *Bloom* magazine will feature an article on the CCA in the April/May issue, as well as in a fall issue.

Report from the City: PACE is removing all bicycles, including adaptive bicycles, from the city. Currently the City has no immediate plan to acquire adaptive bikes.

Michael will be returning to Evansville this Friday to conduct training in surveying businesses for accessibility as the original training was canceled because of bad weather.

There is potential for national ADA coordinator training to take place. If this opportunity arises, it is possible that the Council will be asked for financial support.

Michael is continuing to look into the accessibility concerns, both inside and outside, of the building at 1531 S. Curry Pike. Barbara Salisbury suggested requesting a copy of the model that was used in planning the location and construction of the building to prevent problems such as these from occurring again. Current plans include looking at the parking lot, right-of-way and putting in a regular bus stop which includes a shelter, but no curb cuts.

New Accessibility Concerns: Mike Rouker, City Attorney, reported that the City is working on regulating the use of scooters, including accessibility. HB 1214 addresses safety, speed, and age of operator is to be voted on sometime this week. Bloomington residents are encouraged to contact city council members or check the next Council meeting's agenda for updates on the scooter issue.

Zac Huneck, BT projects manager, reported that SB 285 addresses the topic of the county levying an additional tax of 0.25% for public transportation. Zach also reported that all 550+ bus stops will be surveyed by the end of the year.

Guest Presentations: Susan Rinne, representing Employment First Self-Advocate Coalition, reminded Council members that employment is the first and preferred outcome for people with disabilities. Factors contributing to achieving this outcome include transportation, budgeting, perception of employing people with disabilities, expectations and accessible workplaces. The Bloomington town hall will be held on April 10th from 5-7 pm on the Ivy Tech campus. The purpose of the town hall is to develop local initiative to employ persons with disabilities and document resulting successes; a social media campaign to achieve this goal will be included. Susan asked the CCA to consider joining the Downs' Syndrome and Autism Foundation organizations in partnering with the coalition.

Rafi Hasan, the Monroe County Community School Corporation Equity and Inclusion Coordinator, is seeking an individual interested in serving on the Equity and Access Steering Committee. The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the superintendent in planning professional development. Rafi stressed that the committee wishes to develop practices for leading rather than reacting to situations to insure equity and inclusion for all students. Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month from 6:00 to 7:30 in the Co-Lab at 553 E. Miller Drive. Michael will contact Rafi with names of potential committee members to fill this position; this position could be shared by two people.

Committee Reports:

- A. Accessibility Committee: David Carter reported that there will be twelve places that have or will have received decals where a meal could be enjoyed after decals and gifts are distributed during the April event of Breaking down the Barriers.
- B. Activities and Events Committee: Susan informed Council members that the 2019 Breaking down the Barrie event will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 on Monday, April 29th with dinner following at a restaurant in the downtown area. Plans are still in the works for determining the starting point as well as the restaurant that concludes the event. Those participating should wear their Breaking down the Barrier t-shirt from the previous years and those needing a shirt should let Michael know. An email will go out before the next CCA meeting elaborating upon the details.

The committee is also working on plans for an event with the Transportation and Mobility Committee.

- C. Transportation and Mobility Committee: Barbara announced that Zac Huneck from BT will speak to the Council in March and Lisa Ridge, Highway Director for Monroe County will address the Council in April.

Surveyors will be trained and equipped to assess the bus stops for accessibility. Barbara has been in communication with national speaker Judy Shanley for delivering the luncheon speech on May 23rd. This event which will be held at the Convention Center will address ride sharing businesses (Uber and Lyft) and how their services might be expanded. A panel composed of users and drivers will also make a presentation and answer questions. The luncheon will be open to policy makers, transportation drivers, advocates, and others who are interested in improving transportation accessibility. Training will follow the luncheon with the event concluding at 3:30. Barbara hopes to hear about the grant request to fund the event in the very near future.

Report from the Chair: The Vital Quiz Bowl, in which a team representing the CCA participated last year, will be held during April 15-18. Cost of entering is \$180 per team. Michael will be following up with additional details.

Reports from Affiliate Organizations and Programs/Announcements: There were no additional announcements or reports.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:06 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford