

Meeting Notes for April 24, 2017, 4:00-5:30

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

Members: David Carter, Jeannette Shere-Thomas, Vicki Pappas, Rachel Guglielmo, Zoe Waters, Katie Herron, Chris Cutshall, Casey Guarino, Brother David Smith, Katie Anderson, Connie Neal, Coleman Kavgian, Barbara McKinney, Iris Keisling, and Linda Crawford.

Staff: Michael Shermis

Guests: Adam Wason

Minutes: Minutes from March meeting were approved as printed.

Media: The Breaking down the Barriers event was featured in the IDS as well as on Facebook. Vicki expressed disappointment that it was not covered by the *Herald-Times*. Michael has an idea for coverage in the H-T for next year.

Report from the city: Michael reported that some Indiana cities have noticed the work of the CCA in Bloomington and have expressed an interest in learning more about the Council's work. David will meet with some people from Evansville; Vicki and Michael have shared the format of the decal program with interested citizens from Richmond (who are also interested in forming a council) and Michael reported that West Lafayette's mayor has hired a consultant to help with the formation of a council.

Michael distributed a Quarterly Report which lists requests he receives from folks external to the City, by date and the resolution of those issues.

The online timeline of CCA will be sent to Council members so that they can review the information presented. Responses and suggestions should be sent to Michael as he will post the Timeline on the City's website soon.

Barbara asked if the TTY phone is being used at all. It was suggested that she contact the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing agency to see what device is being currently recommended for use.

Financial Report: No new financial report as there are still outstanding bills for the April event. Expenses were kept within the event's budget.

Guest Presentation: Adam Wason, Director of Public Works for the City of Bloomington, provided an overview of the department:

Adam used a map of the downtown intersections to show where current curb ramps are being repaired. Sixteen have been completed thus far, with twenty additional intersections earmarked for improvement. In 2016, 80% of the sidewalk funds were spent on curb ramp upgrades; in 2017, approximately 90% of the funds will be spent on upgrades. Upgrades occur when road paving is done. As far as snow removal in the downtown area is concerned, snow is removed from the streets first, then from the curb ramps.

The Public Works sanitation program is being modified to become more safety-minded and more efficient than the present system. Adam explained that the sanitation department works with people with disabilities to establish flag stops. Someone requesting a flag stop is

to call the sanitation division and submit a form requesting this service. Currently there are about 100 flag stops.

Vicki inquired about who has the responsibility of repairing cracks in the sidewalks. Adam explained that since the 1980s, the owner of the property adjacent to the sidewalk is responsible for the repair. Every three years, a third of the sidewalks are surveyed and the property owners of those designated as the fifty worst sidewalks are notified that repairs are needed. If there is extra ramp money, the “worst of the worst” are repaired by the city. The city maintains a list of contractors that do sidewalk repair and will share that list with property owners. The Public Works department tries to work with owners on sidewalk repair and hopes to get a compliance program restored. David asked about the dip that occurs between the asphalt and concrete, and Adam explained that new construction will have smooth transition between the two. The Public Works department follows up when a report is made and sends a response to the citizen calling attention to the problem.

David pointed out that there is a lack of pedestrian corridors in some places. The area around Skyline drive off Kinser Pike has a major storm drain that is a hazard to people using wheelchairs. Adam said that resource limitations prevent work to correct this situation. However, the department is working with the state on the I-69 construction to make sure that pedestrian corridors are included.

New Accessibility Concerns: The accessibility aisles from the parking area next to IMA/Premiere Health have been eliminated, thus eliminating all accessible parking. This area will be surveyed, as well as the Eye Center on 2nd Street which has several accessibility concerns.

Coleman has been invited to walk around the IU campus with a member of IU’s Planning Department on May 9th for an overview of accessibility concerns. Coleman asked about questions that the Council would like her to pose. Suggestions: Where is their transition plan? What role is the ADA coordinator playing in the transition program? Are there plans to reestablish an ADA committee on campus? What is being done about accessible parking problems? Would a member of the IU Planning Committee make a presentation to the CCA?

Report from the Chair: Michael posted the Council’s lists of proposed activities that resulted from January’s meeting. Katie asked Council members to prioritize the items so that the list can be narrowed. The Council will continue to work on the selected prioritized items at the May meeting. No guest presentation is planned for the May meeting.

Committee Reports:

- A. Accessibility Committee: Vicki reported that the goal of awarding ten decals on April 19th was met. The committee’s new goal is ten more to be awarded at the July celebration.

A complaint concerning Zagreb’s front entrance problem, filed with the Department of Justice, has led to the business looking into the tax-incentive program of remodeling the front entrance.

There are 20-25 businesses currently in the process of being surveyed.

B. Activities and Events Committee: In Susan's absence, Michael announced that the planning meeting for the July celebration will be held on Friday, May 12, from 12-1 pm., Hooker Room. It is not too early to be thinking about a speaker for the October Awards ceremony.

Jeannette expressed her concern about students with disabilities and how songs and stories can be used as methods to educate children about disabilities. It was suggested that she speak with Susan about how opportunities to incorporate these activities might be arranged.

Reports from Affiliate Organizations and Programs/Announcements: None at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary