

Meeting Notes for March 27, 2017, 4:00-5:30

Katie Herron called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Members: David Carter, Jeannette Shere-Thomas, Vicki Pappas, Nick Philbeck, Susan Russ, Rachel Guglielmo, Zoe Waters, Dorothy Lenard, Katie Herron, Lesamarie Hacker, Barbara Salisbury and Linda Crawford.

Staff: Michael Shermis

Guests: Paula McDevitt, Amy Shrake

Minutes: Minutes from February meeting were approved as printed.

Media: No media was presented, but there has been much activity on Facebook.

Report from the city: No report from the city.

Financial Report: The balance of the CCA funds is \$6,769.81.

Guest Presentation: Paula McDevitt, Director of Parks and Rec for the City of Bloomington, provided an overview of the department:

The Parks and Rec Department has an Inclusive Recreation Program. This includes the Special Olympics, which is now held in partnership with other organizations, including the recruitment of volunteers.

In 1999, full inclusion began—the hiring of the first Inclusive Recreation Coordinator, a summer day camp program (Kid City, WOW), use of ADA support and partnering with Stone Belt.

The Parks and Rec Program was first accredited by National Parks and Rec Association in 2001, with reaccreditation occurring every five years. Paula stressed that the staff is continually checking to make sure they are in compliance with the standards, making changes as necessary.

Amy Shrake, Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, spoke about the process of inclusion in the recreation program. The Parks and Rec Program Guide, which is issued quarterly, lists activities and events available for all. If participants with disabilities need reasonable accommodations, they are to check the box on the application form that is provided for indication of a need. After completing an inclusion questionnaire, the participant meets with Amy to develop an individualized plan, which is then implemented by the staff. An evaluation is completed at the conclusion of the activity. Counselors are hired to work one-on-one with campers needing accommodations. Occasionally an inclusion camper goes on to become a camp counselor. Whereas there have been no campers who are blind, there have been some campers with vision impairment.

Amy said that the ADA standards are adhered to when planning new construction. The Parks and Rec operations division works with the Planning Department, as well as Barbara McKinney. Twin Lakes Recreation Center and Banneker have been evaluated for accessibility and Allison-Jukebox will be reevaluated following their recent renovation.

Amy mentioned a concern about the decrease in the number of children needing inclusion accommodations, but looking into this matter revealed that there has been an increase in the number of camps offered to the Bloomington population. An after-school network ensures that there are programs with different foci for children.

When asked about frustrations in providing an inclusive recreation program, Amy mentioned aging buildings and natural environments, such as Griffey Lake and Leonard Springs, limit opportunities or make it difficult or impossible to provide needed accommodations.

Despite these limiting factors, the Parks and Rec Department view inclusion as a natural thing and that they use a planning tool to make sure that everything that the department does follows the goal of inclusion.

New Accessibility Concerns: There were no new accessibility concerns mentioned.

Report from the Chair: Guest presentation scheduled for April is Adam Wason from Public Works.

Michael displayed the Council's list of proposed activities that resulted from January's meeting. Katie asked that members review these suggestions and prioritize the items so that the list can be narrowed. The Council will continue to work on this project at the April meeting.

Committee Reports:

- A. **Accessibility Committee:** Vicki reminded members of the committee's goal of awarding ten decals on April 19th. Since January, 2017, twelve businesses (10 downtown businesses) have met accessibility standards. The committee's new goal is ten more to be awarded at the July celebration.
The complaint filed with the Department of Justice concerning Player's Pub has been closed. Though the business has installed a ramp and an accessible sign for the restroom, the restroom is still not accessible. However, closure of the complaint does not prevent someone from filing a new complaint. Filing a complaint with the State's Human Rights Commission might be an alternative to filing with the DOJ.
Michael mentioned that the ramp installed at Player's Pub has a slight drop-off that caused a patron's fall and injury. Michael will speak with the owner concerning this latest complaint.

- B. **Activities and Events Committee:** Susan reported that twenty-six people have responded to the invitation to the Accessibility Event "Breaking down the Barriers" (April 19th, 3:00-6:00). The activity will begin at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater from where seven teams will visit downtown businesses to deliver decals and balloons. Michael will provide maps and lists of businesses available for the teams. The activity concludes with dinner at King Dough.
Michael's intern will be doing livestream video on Facebook; the *Herald-Times* has been contacted with information about the event.
This special event will thank businesses that have earned the accessibility decal, provide media exposure for these businesses, as well as highlight CCA's involvement

in meeting accessibility needs in the community. The event will also show that people with disabilities have buying power.

The Council unanimously endorsed the executive committee's decision to spend a total of \$900 for the event; \$350 for tee shirts, \$150 for balloons and Hershey kisses, \$400 for food.

Susan reported that there will be eleven classroom presentations during the month of accessibility, with Zoe doing three of the presentations. (Zoe has already made a presentation at IU to an Anthropology class.) There is a display celebrating the months of March and April (Disability and Accessibility Awareness) in the City Hall.

Susan and the Activities and Events Committee will soon begin planning for the July ADA event. Suggestions from the members included participating in the National Disability Registration for Voting, providing an activity to raise awareness of the First Responders' Registry, or providing training and awareness of needs for first responders or determining other needs of the community. The possibility of securing a grant for the training was discussed, though the April 28th deadline for submitting the grant might present a problem.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 5:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary