

**Council for Community Accessibility
Meeting Notes for August 26, 2019, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

Katie Herron opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Members: Susan Russ, Katie Herron, Katie Anderson, Barbara McKinney, Barbara Salisbury, Iris Kiesling, Cori Mitchell, John Brady, David Carter, Chris Jackson, Cindy Fleetwood, Chris Baskins, Michelle Hahn, Eli McCormick, Natalie Sturbaum, Rachel Guglielmo, Zoe Waters, Kelly Clark, Nic Philbeck, and Linda Crawford.

Guests: Grace Kestler, Accessibility Consultant

Staff: Michael Shermis

Minutes: June minutes were accepted as printed.

Financial Report: There is a balance of \$1,943.80 in the CCA account following the payment of expenses (\$216.81) incurred for the July ADA Celebration. Letters about the upcoming event, Gather 'Round the Table, have been sent and it is expected that this will generate some financial support for the event.

Media: Katie Anderson commented on the well-done article about the CCA in Bloom magazine.

Report from the city: Michael reported that there were very useful sessions presented at the ADA Symposium, especially in the areas of Transportation and Mobility, and Festival and Event Planning. He also mentioned that organizers of Lotus and Pridefest have consulted him regarding accessibility plans for their events.

As a result of the twenty-five Mandela Fellows presentations held here, it was decided that those involved would stay in touch. They also expressed a desire to become a sister city.

Michael distributed a recent draft of an updated CCA brochure. Suggestions—vision statement, descriptions of Breaking down the Barriers and the ADA Celebration, listing and describing the three committees, meeting dates and mention of Facebook—were suggested for inclusion in the brochure. Please send further ideas to Michael!

New Accessibility Concerns: Michael requested that residents of College Square Apartments (formerly named Walnut Grove Apartments) who have a disability contact him. There is much concern that there is no bus stop serving those residents. Instead, the bus drives into the parking lot. Walking distances, lack of curb cuts, poor visibility are problems.

Guest Presentation: Grace Kestler, from Grace Kestler Consulting, Columbus, IN, a graduate of DePauw University, started her consulting business after thinking about self-advocacy. While completing her master's degree in Europe, she observed that less developed countries have a reduced disability awareness. Returning to Columbus, she used

the many different concepts of what constitutes a disability to create a pipeline to provide help in navigating difficulties encountered by those with disabilities.

Grace is working with the Columbus Visitor Center and tour guides to provide greater accessibility. She is also involved with looking at bus routes, adaptive sports, and adaptive health for new sports complexes.

Grace is currently a candidate for the Columbus City Council, hoping to increase accessibility within the city if elected.

Committee Reports:

- A. Accessibility Committee: Chris reported that MCCSC schools within the city limits which were surveyed earlier will be sent a letter with a reminder of things to be done to comply with ADA standards. Michelle Hahn has joined the group of surveyors.

- B. Activities and Events Committee: Susan introduced ideas for the Gather 'Round the Table event to be held in October. The targeted audience is community leaders, people with disabilities, and advocates for people with disabilities. Health care is the focus for this year's event, to be held on October 28th at 6:00 pm. It was suggested that perhaps a general time for conversation such as an ice breaker prior to dinner might provide everyone enough time to eat. Possible topics for discussion during the event include care coordination, emergency services and transportation, mental care, state legislation, hospital care, aging population, ethnicities, wellness and recreation, access to health care, and Medicaid/Medicare. September 11th, 12:00 noon has been set for a planning meeting.

- C. Transportation and Mobility Committee: Barbara provided a follow-up of the Ride-Hailing Workshop, which was held in May. Barbara mentioned that a pilot transportation network program will include nine tutors for fifteen participants with disabilities. Plans include customer gift cards for Lyft and Uber will be given to participants. Evaluation of the training will be held immediately after its conclusion and then again in 3-4 months. The pilot program is ready to be launched and should be completed by the end of the year.

Report from the Chair: Katie said that the Council will work on its vision statement at the September 30th meeting, which will be held from 4:00-6:00 pm.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 5:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Crawford