

Meeting Notes for January 30, 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, Casey Guarino, Brother David Smith, Kimberly Dailey Johnson, Nick Philbeck, Chris Cutshall, Susan Russ, Rachel Guglielmo, Dorothy Lenard, Catherine Anders, Gary Bailey, and Linda Crawford, Katie Herron

Staff:

Guests: Doris Sims

Minutes: Minutes from the November meeting were approved as printed.

Media: Adria Nassim's column in the Herald-Times included mention of Transit Day in Indianapolis, including a description of the Coalition. There were about ten people in attendance to advocate for providing funds for transportation for the physically disabled in Bloomington. This committee needs additional members and the question was posed as to the possibility of Adria's column addressing this need. Katie will follow up with Adria. (February 21st is Legislative Day.)

Report from the city: No report from the City.

Financial Report: The balance of the CCA funds is about \$6500. With this amount of money, the Council should look for projects to engage in that are in line with its mission.

Guest Presentation: Doris Sims, Director of HAND for the City of Bloomington, provided an overview of HAND components:

- Rental Inspection program; about 45% of Bloomington housing is rental and all rentals are inspected on a 3-5 year interval
- Housing and funding activities; applicants must meet income requirements established by the federal government
- Loan and grant programs for rehab
- Emergency home repairs; grants up to \$7500
- Modifications to homes for accessibility to allow residents to stay within the home or rental (with owner approval); grants up to \$9000
- Neighborhood services; improvements (e.g., trees, signage for neighborhoods), grants for neighborhood projects
- Physical improvements; working with Public Works to make repairs, etc.
- Title VI; necessary removal of weeds, trash, snow; environmentally planning for naturalizing yards
- Housing counseling services for first time home buyers

Doris said she would look into the possibility of compiling a list of rental housing that is available for renters with accessible needs. Possibly inspectors can look for these rentals. The Fair Housing Act lists guidelines for accessibility.

Doris recalled a previous experience in which all city department directors participated in a “Day of Disabilities,” and experienced the challenges of navigating the city as persons with disabilities.

New Accessibility Concerns: An Ivy Tech class held at Topos is not completely accessible. Vicki is looking into this concern. Also, the accessible entrance on Fourth Street to the John Waldron Arts Center is not signed and to gain entry, it is necessary to ring a bell. Although there is no requirement placed on outside entry doors by the ADA, it was suggested that the owners (Ivy Tech) consider best practices for accessibility, such as making the door lighter and/or installing a blue button for automatic opening.

Report from the Chair: Guest presentations are scheduled for February (Caroline Shaw from Human Resources), March (Paula McDevvit from Parks and Rec) and April (Adam Wason from Public Works).

Katie asked the Council to brainstorm ideas for projects. Some suggestions coming from small groups included:

- Work with doctors’ offices to provide signage, arrangement of chairs in waiting rooms to accommodate wheelchairs
- Consider the connection between aging and disabilities to provide benefits of making accessibility adjustments
- Visit-ability; making homes accessible for visitors with disabilities
- Appreciation Day for businesses meeting accessibility standards
- Celebration of diversity with fun events
- Service dog demonstration

Committee Reports:

- A. Accessibility Committee: Vicki reported that the Department of Justice is reviewing three complaints. A procedure is now in place for Barbara McKinney or the CCA send a letter to the surveyed business outlining corrections needed to meet accessibility standards. Because of the positive response from businesses who received the hand-delivered new accessibility decal, the committee has decided that from now on the businesses earning decals will receive them from the person conducting the survey. The committee is now looking for suggestions on how to encourage the public to patronize these accessible businesses. A suggestion was made that businesses be encouraged to advertise their accessibility on their Facebook pages.
- B. Activities and Events Committee: There has been no recent meeting, but Susan is hopeful that the Council’s planning activity will generate some ideas for Disability and Accessibility months. Member are needed for this committee!

Reports from Affiliate Organizations and Programs/Announcements: Kimberly distributed brochures highlighting the Week of Chocolate events.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary