

**Council for Community Accessibility
Meeting Notes for February 24, 2020, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

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

Members: Katie Herron, Chris Jackson, Michelle Hahn, Lesamarie Hacker, Iris Kiesling, Jeanette Thomas, David Carter, Braden Bonczek, Zoe Waters, Rachel Guglielmo, Trish Ierino, Kelly Clarke, Cori Mitchell, John Brady, Barbara McKinney, Lisa Salyers, and Linda Crawford.

Staff: Michael Shermis

Minutes: January minutes were accepted as printed.

Financial Report: Balance in the CCA account is \$3,576.79.

Media: The Buskirk-Chumley hosted comedian Ryan Niemiller from Indianapolis this month. He shared thoughts from the view of a person with disability.

Partner Organizations Awareness & Outreach: This item has been returned to the Council's monthly agenda in an attempt to create a more community-connected and diverse organization. Events from four organizations have been added to the online monthly CCA newsletter.

The Monroe County Public Library will be presenting the documentary "Invaluable" during disability awareness month. Also, the library will eliminate late fees beginning in March. The addition of a third library will be located near Batchelor Middle School; an architect has already been secured for the new building. There will be ample parking at the new site.

Michelle announced that she is now a member of the Patient and Family Advisory Council of the Bloomington Hospital and will take related concerns to the Council.

Katie encouraged all board to become more community connected by attending an event sponsored by an organization that we have partnered with or that an individual member has an interest in. Community connectedness is a two-way street, she reminded the Council.

Report from the city: Michael announced that the CCA's monthly meetings will be held in the Allison Conference Room, #225 from now on.

Michael is working with The Project School to do Project Sidewalk, a sidewalk surveying project. Students would be given training before conducting a survey. They will also take pictures of areas that need attention and then Michael would work with the Public Works Department at the City to address the issues.

Michael distributed the new brochures to members who will in turn distribute them to members of organizations to which they belong.

New Accessibility Concerns: Concern was expressed over the lack of bus service to the affordable housing apartment complex on North Walnut. At one time, bus service was provided to this area, but discontinued because of lack of riders. However, now there is an apparent need and there is even space near that area available for a turn-around for a bus. For some reason, bus route extension to this area was denied; Council members and others are encouraged to reach out and let Bloomington Transit know that bus service is needed in this part of Bloomington. The final vote by BT will be on Tuesday, March 17th.

Guest Presentation: There was no guest presentation this month.

Committee Reports:

- A. Accessibility Committee: Chris reported that two businesses have qualified for a decal and hopes that there will be more by April's Breaking Down the Barriers event. He said the committee also needs more surveyors.
- B. Transportation and Mobility Committee: Trish, reporting in Barbara's absence, reported that the Committee is doing evaluation of the 2019 Hail Riding session. Participants in last year's event will be contacted to collect information on usage of the service. The Committee also is working on an educational event which would coincide with the American Council for the Blind's 2020's annual event in November.
- C. Activities and Events Committee: In Susan's absence, Michael reported that the April event of Breaking down the Barriers will be held during the second half of the month.

Report from the Chair: Plans are being made to apply for an Indiana Humanities Grant. The grant would provide funds to purchase books related to disabilities which would be read by interested community members. This is a possible focus for the Gather 'round the Table event that we might move to the end of September this year. It might be feasible to distribute books at the July ADA event. Please send suggested book titles to Michael or Katie.

Action Planning:

Council members broke up into groups to do action planning and prioritizing for the three committees. The following are summaries of the results:

Chris reported on the Accessibility Committee's plan.

Goal 1: Achieve participation between the deaf community and the CCA

- find a person to attend meetings
- reach out to someone in the deaf community to make a connection for a CCA presentation

Goal 2: Ensure that building permits are compatible with ADA requirements

- speak with Building Commissioner
- meet with Monroe County Council/Bloomington City Council
- go to the State level to resolve difficulties; propose new legislation concerning building permits

Potential Speaker to support the goals: Jim Gerstbauer (Monroe County Building Commissioner), Matt Pierce (State Representative), Catherine Vest (Indiana Disability Rights)

Katie reported on the Activities and Events Committee's plan.

Goal: Create interconnectivity through our three main events with a wider range of groups to increase diversity

- Breaking down the Barriers
 - seeking partners for event (Stone Belt, Voc Rehab)
 - distribute to DSPers
 - considering a possible dinner speaker
 - determining where to hold dinner
- July ADA Anniversary (30th)
 - tentative plans to hold it at the Farmers' Market, but considering another venue with other partners (Deaf community)
 - give the book used in Gather event away to participants
- Gather 'Round the Table
 - determine book that could be used
 - consider guest selection based upon direction taken by book selected

Potential Speaker to support the goals: Larissa Danielle (black, disabled artist)

Trish reported on the Transportation and Mobility Committee's plan.

Goal: Educate community about transportation opportunities and challenges

- hold a fall educational event in coordination with the American Council of the Blind's conference in November
- record public service announcements
- do information gathering and research by looking at models in other cities (on topics like micro-transit, scooter/bike safety, access to parks) and stay in contact with Bloomington Health Foundation, Bloomington Transit
- keep CCA in mind when interacting with the community and other organizations that we belong to
- start dialogue with IU Hospital and transportation/accessibility

Potential Speaker to support the goals: TBD

Meeting was adjourned at 5:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Crawford