

Meeting Notes for March 28, 2016, 4:00-5:30

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

Members: Vicki Pappas, David Carter, Catherine Anders, Katie Herron, Nick Philbeck, Karin Willison, Dorothy Lenard, Rebecca Sawyer, Barbara Salisbury, Rhonda Moore and Linda Crawford

Staff: Michael Shermis

Guests: Andrew Cibor, Iris Kiesling

Minutes: Minutes were accepted as printed.

Media: An article on special education preschool was featured in the March 28th *Herald-Times*. A recent Saturday *Herald Times* featured a home that was redesigned to accommodate wheelchair use.

Staff Report: The event “Navigating the Caregiver Challenge, Part II” will be held on May 7th. Panelists for the discussion include Katie Herron, Catherine Gray, and Catherine M. Sherwood-Laughlin.

Michael appealed to CCA members to submit more informative items to post on the city’s Facebook page as he is required to post at least once a week. Vicki suggested mentioning different businesses that have been awarded the accessibility decals. It was also suggested that upcoming CCA meetings and outside speakers be mentioned on the Facebook page.

Financial Report: There was no report presented.

Guest Presentation: Andrew Cibor, Department of Traffic and Transportation, expressed his desire to have continued communication with the CCA concerning the department’s projects. He discussed the detectable warning signals that are currently in use in the city. The cast iron devices are heavy and expensive. There are plastic devices available for use, but in selecting a color, the department must consider using a contrasting color in order for the signal to be visible. Sidewalks are normally constructed from red brick, black pavement or white concrete. Barbara Salisbury suggested talking with the visually impaired about effective color contrasts. She mentioned that if a person with visual impairment walks with a dog, then the descent goes too quickly for the person to pick up the change whereas a person using a cane picks up the change in descent. Thus, texture is an important feature of the detectable warning devices. Katie and Vicki suggested that a single color be decided upon so that it is recognizable as a warning device throughout the city.

Andrew commented that developers send plans to both the Planning and Transportation departments for approval. Andrew was invited to attend an Accessibility Committee meeting to become familiar with the work that the committee does.

New Accessibility Concerns: No new concerns were presented to the Council.

Report from Chair:

Upcoming presentations include:

April 25th—speaker from Ivy Tech Community College

May 23rd—Matt Pierce, co-author of legislation concerning use of an identification bracelet for police to identify persons with disabilities. (Michael will send summary of proposed legislation to CCA members to review before May meeting.)

June—Stacy Algeier, Indiana Hands and Voices

Katie asked members to think about potential speakers for the July, August, and September meetings.

There has been no response yet from the mayor to the Council’s invitation to attend a CCA meeting; however, it was noted that the mayor has begun to attend organizational meetings.

The revised Special Needs Registration form was distributed to members to review and critique. Michael made note of the many suggestions and once those changes have been made in the registration form, he will send Barbara McKinney the newly revised form. After Barbara has reviewed the new version, he will bring the form to the next CCA meeting for the Council’s review.

Committee Reports:

A. Accessibility Committee: Vicki announced that she will provide Council members with more information about the upcoming Restaurant Training at the next meeting. She feels that this training should be available to a larger audience than solely restaurant owners.

The Accessibility Committee hopes to have 10 surveys completed by May, with 4 already completed.

Nick’s is in the process of correcting several things which currently do not meet accessibility requirements. The Department of Justice is looking into the complaints concerning Player’s Pub (Mary Hill, owner) and Little Zagreb’s.

Mather’s Museum has been cited with noncompliance of civil rights and has a certain length of time to make corrections that obstruct accessibility to and within the museum.

Karin has designed an updated decal to be awarded to businesses complying with Accessibility standards, which will necessitate some expense. Karin and Michael will come up with the final version of the new decal.

Vicki also noted that the committee is composing a letter to be sent to the city's departments which highlights suggestions in planning events so that access is available to all invitees and patrons.

- B. Activities and Events Committee: Susan reported that one school presentation has been made with six more scheduled during the months of Disability and Accessibility Awareness. She had requested a photographer for these events, but has not had a response from Bob Zaltzburg yet. She intends to contact the Life Style editor for coverage of some of the remaining events.

Reports from Affiliate Organizations and Programs/Announcements:

Rhonda Moore reported that the Bloomington Housing Authority has 310 housing units with more than 50 per cent leased to the elderly or disabled. They put out a quarterly newsletter and suggested that the Special Registry information and registration form be included in the newsletter.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Crawford, Secretary