

**Council Meeting Notes
May 23, 2016, 4:00-5:30**

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

Members: Catherine Anders, Chris Jackson, David Carter, Katie Herron, Dr. Lisa Connolly, Susan Russ, Barbara Salisbury, Barbara McKinney, Nick Philbeck, Jeannette Shere-Thomas, and Linda Crawford

Staff: Michael Shermis

Guests: State Representative Matt Pierce, Cierra Olivia Thomas-Williams

Minutes: Minutes from the April meeting were accepted as printed.

Media: Dr. Connolly reported that she had received twenty-two thank you notes from the students at Clear Creek Elementary School who were very interested in learning about the brain and disabilities.

Staff Report: Michael reported that after speaking with Ron Walker about the ramp at the Depot, the ramp and landing that did not meet ADA specifications were adjusted to meet specifications because “it was the right thing to do.” In addition, they will be adding signage for accessibility around the exterior of the building. Also, the small strip along the southeast corner at 4th and Walnut which was difficult to maneuver in a wheelchair, has been surfaced to make a smooth transition from the sidewalk to the garage ramp.

Dr. Connolly reported that an oversight regarding the soap dispensers at the new building at Ivy Tech had been corrected immediately after bringing it to attention at Ivy Tech.

Financial Report: There is a balance of \$5743.50 in CCA funds.

Guest Presentation: State Representative Matt Pierce explained that the goal of the bill he co-sponsored—the voluntary wearing of a wristband or carrying a card to identify a disability—is to reduce the likelihood of escalation of an encounter between a person with a disability and a police officer. Patterned somewhat after legislation in Alabama, the identification bracelet or card would alert police of a person’s condition. Concerned about possible backfire, the bill states that this identification program is voluntary. After this law goes into effect on July 1st, it will be the responsibility of the Department of Health to establish procedures for implementing the identification program. There will be an opportunity for the public to express opinion by checking the websites of the Indiana Register or Department of Health.

This legislation does not contain language pertaining to officer training, but training will be conducted at the Police Academy. The effectiveness of the legislation will most likely be determined by the response from advocate groups. The advocates can provide information to the legislators by going to the Indiana General Assembly website. Also, organizations such as NAMI and ARC of Indiana will most likely assume responsibility for gathering feedback and relaying it to the legislature.

For individuals who have guardians, the guardian is responsible for deciding if the individual requests the identification bracelet or card.

The bill does not include language as to how provisions of the law are made available to the police officers and others.

New Accessibility Concerns: There were no new accessibility concerns.

Report from the Chair:

Upcoming presentations include:

June 27--Stacy Algeier, Indiana Hands and Voices

August 29—Mayor John Hamilton

The June meeting will include planning for August's meeting.

Special Needs Registry: Michael shared the latest revision of the Special Needs Registry registration form with the Council. He also brought to the Council's attention that if an individual were to voluntarily provide date of birth and social security number, the name of the individual alone would provide the same information as giving the person's address. This would be beneficial if the person were away from home and needed assistance. Michael will work with Barbara McKinney on this and once changes or additions are made, he will email the completed registry application and brochure to council members for review.

Committee Reports:

- A. Accessibility Committee: In Vicki's absence, Michael reported that training for restaurateurs would be held on Wednesday, June 22nd at Michael's Uptown Café from 2:00-4:00 pm. Topics will include physical aspects of using the restaurant, inheriting a business in an older space, accessibility planning, and staff training opportunities. Training will be provided by a representative consultant familiar with ADA specifications with input from a panel of citizens involved with disabilities and disability awareness.

The Council approved the Executive Committee's decision to spend \$319.29 for new decals.

- B. Activities and Events Committee: Susan explained that the July meeting, held at the regular time (4:00 pm) will be a 26th Celebration of the ADA. A featured event will be the presentation of the new decal along with recognition of previous decal awardees. Each CCA member will have the opportunity to deliver the new decals to the places of businesses that have previously been awarded decals.

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, June 9th at noon in the Hooker Room.

Reports from Affiliate Organizations and Programs/Announcements:

The next Coffee with a Cop will be on Saturday, June 4th at the Farmer's Market from 10:00-11:00 am.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Crawford, Secretary