

Meeting Notes for August 29, 2016, 4:00-5:30

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

Members: Chris Jackson, David Carter, Katie Herron, Jeannette Shere-Thomas, Vicki Pappas, Casey Guarino, Brother David Smith, Dr. Lisa Connolly, and Linda Crawford
Staff: Michael Shermis
Guests: Mayor John Hamilton

Guest Presentation: The Council welcomed Mayor John Hamilton. Mayor Hamilton recommended that City departments—Planning, Public Works, HAND, Parks and Rec, Human Resources, Transportation--attend a CCA meeting to become acquainted with the Council's work. The Planning department has already attended a meeting to share project plans and seek CCA input on those plans. LOTUS has sought CCA's input in organizing for accessibility. Katie iterated that the CCA is not a watchdog, rather a resource for the community.

In addressing accessibility work, Katie focused on how efforts have been revitalized in the past 4-5 years and explained the process of surveying and awarding decals. Surveying is done upon the request of a business owner or when a question of a site not meeting ADA standards is referred. Vicki further explained the process of resolving the raised issues.

As the City building has already been surveyed for accessibility compliance, a decal should be displayed on its door. It was suggested that other city government buildings be surveyed for accessibility. David inquired about the number of disabled persons employed by the city as well as how actively does personnel seek people with disabilities. The Mayor said he would look into that.

Katie expressed the Council's desire for collaboration with the City in supporting those businesses that meet accessibility standards.

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

Media: Katie shared the letter from the National Braille Press expressing thanks for the donations made by individual members in Byron Smith's memory. She also related that on July 28, radio station WGCL aired the history of ADA and the CCA's work in Bloomington which was contributed by the Ivy Tech chancellor.

The Herald-Times posted advertisement for combatting the stigma of mental illness on the new bus as well as highlighting parents caring for children with disabilities. The newspaper also included an article on the new accessibility decal. A Saturday edition highlighted a garden designed for accessibility for people using wheelchairs. A column by Adria Nassim linked Independence Day and disabilities. An article on Byron Smith provided a brief biography including his contributions to the Bloomington community.

CCA members inspected an OTC medicine box from Europe which included information in Braille as well as in print.

Casey received a good response from the Facebook posting of the picture she took that listed all the businesses which had received accessibility decals. Casey also mentioned that the owner of Lil Bub's Shop wishes to work with the CCA through his business.

Katie suggested that Media be expanded to include Facebook. She encouraged Council members to like the post, share it, and contribute by messaging CCA with a link.

Report from the city: Michael reported that there are still decals to be delivered to businesses and encouraged Council members to help with delivering them. He also stated that he has an intern who will be putting together a timeline of the CCA's development and work.

Financial Report: There is a balance of \$3,877.10 in CCA funds following the expenditure for the June Restaurateur training event. Grant money of \$1,517 will reimburse the CCA for the training expenses.

New Accessibility Concerns: Casey raised a question about the Seminary Square Kroger's entrance at the B-Line Trail currently being blocked by their Back-to-School display. Also, the IU Health Women's Physician Office on Second Street has no curb cuts, making it necessary for someone in a wheelchair to go out into the road to reach the building. Michael will look into these two situations. Michael mentioned also that if the Planning Department gets a response from "UReport", he follows up with checking the reported site.

Michael also reported that there had been a call concerning responsibility for the curb cuts for the sidewalks along Leonard Springs Road.

Katie added that the school which her son attends, The Academy for Science and Entrepreneurship, now has power doors.

Report from the Chair: Katie provided an update on presenters for the upcoming Council meetings: in September, Area 10 Agency on Aging Adult Guardianship Program, no Council meeting in October as the Awards Ceremony will take place on November 7th, and possibly the head of a city department for November's meeting.

Following the distribution of the new Special Needs Registry brochure, sixteen people have been registered. Michael asked the Council members for suggestions of other places to distribute the new forms.

As a result of mediation concerning the inaccessibility of Player's Pub, a ramp to enter the business has been installed. However, remodeling plans to make the restroom accessible would require an expenditure of \$12,000-\$14,000, which is reported to be beyond means.

Committee Reports:

- A. Accessibility Committee: Vicki reported that six new surveys have been reviewed and that four of those surveyed are to receive decals. The committee's goal is to have at least five new businesses receive the accessibility decal by the November 7th event.

- B. Activities and Events Committee: In Susan's absence, Katie explained that the Activities and Events Committee have discussed a possible change in format for the upcoming November Awards ceremony. The focus of the evening would deemphasize the awards portion and allow time for providing an opportunity for celebration through story-sharing of personal experiences relating to disabilities and accessibility.

Reports from Affiliate Organizations and Programs/Announcements: On Thursday, September 1st, people from IU, Ivy Tech, and the community will celebrate diversity "Stars" from 4:00-7:00 pm in the Ivy Tech courtyard.

On Thursday, September 8th, 6:00-8:00 pm, the award winning film on Alzheimer's disease will be shown at the MCPL. A question and answer period follows the film.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:37 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford, Secretary