

**Council for Community Accessibility
Meeting Notes for April 27, 2020, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

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

Members: Katie Herron, Chris Jackson, Michelle Hahn, Iris Kiesling, John Brady, Katie Anderson, Chris Baskins, Morgan Galloway Daly, Barbara Salisbury, Randy Paul, Rafi-Khalid Hasan II, Barbara McKinney, Charles Culp, Casey Guarino, Nick Philbeck, Lesley Davis, Cindy Fleetwood and Linda Crawford.

Staff: Michael Shermis

Minutes: February minutes were accepted as printed.

Financial Report: Balance in the CCA account is \$3,517.98. Recent expenditures include a charge for a book and a small expense exceeding the ride-hailing grant.

Media: Michael reminded all to continue sending articles to him to post on Facebook—articles concerning equity are especially sought. Michael continues to send out information to community groups as he receives it.

Partner Organizations Awareness & Outreach: Chris shared some ways the library is using to build relationships with organizations that the CCA has not previously interacted with. The library has established a Caregivers' University. He announced that the Summer Reading Program will begin on June 1st and is using internet devices for the program this summer. Though the library is presently closed, the Libby app can be used on a smart phone or tablet to access films and books through Canopy and Hoopla, as well as the National Library System. Unfortunately, the Herald-Times is not available in full copy.

Barbara mentioned that the American Council for the Blind is coordinating with restaurants and grocery stores to make sure products and services are available for those with vision impairment. A chat resource is planned to be available in May.

Casey added that the MDA in its Laughing at My Nightmare program is providing a \$100 gift card to people with disabilities affected by the virus to be used as needed. There is an application that must be completed before receiving the gift card.

Report from the city: Michael requested that items for the newsletter should be sent before the end of the month. Craig Shonkwiler, City Engineer, who was to give a presentation to the CCA at this meeting has resigned to take a similar position outside of Bloomington.

New Accessibility Concerns: Because of limited BT Access availability during this time, some people are having difficulty securing transportation. The American Council for the Blind is concerned about voting by mail as it will not be a completely independent activity for people with vision impairment. Randy commented that despite the Help America Vote act, people might be forced to vote by mail because a voting site is not accessible. Barbara says that the Council is looking at how other states are handling this problem.

It was noted that Kroger is not offering assistance for shoppers with low vision.

Let Michael know of any ideas that you might have to resolve these problems.

Guest Presentation: There was no guest presentation this month.

Committee Reports:

- A. **Accessibility Committee:** The committee held a virtual meeting prior to the CCA meeting. Of the three surveys completed, one needed to make a signage correction and one business has a minor item to be corrected. The fifth grade of the Project School, working in small groups, will be looking at sidewalk travel. They will identify things that present barriers to pedestrian traffic.
Chris reported that there are two IU Informatics graduate students who are working to develop a digital accessibility survey. As this is a complex topic, it is taking awhile to develop a tool that will help local businesses increase the audience using digital resources.
- B. **Transportation and Mobility Committee:** Barbara is hoping to form a group that will look into a WAV (wheelchair accessible vehicle). The group has been communicating with a transportation provider from Columbia, Missouri, within the next couple of months to gather information about what can be done, They are hoping that there will be a way to provide on-demand service. Currently, BT Access does not provide on-demand service or service outside the City. Meanwhile, the committee is wrapping up the ride-hailing project. Most of those who participated in this event last year have been trained and have expressed the wish that this be an on-going activity. The trainers are interested in educating interested people in how to use the app, etc. Towns outside of Bloomington have expressed an interest in pursuing this.
- C. **Activities and Events Committee:** In Susan's absence, Michael reported that planning for the October Gather 'Round the Table has begun. Holding the ADA Celebration in July depends upon the status of the Farmers' Market.

Book Selection for Gather 'Round the Table: Council members received a list of five book titles to be considered for discussion at the October event. Chris will check the accessibility of each of the titles. This list will then be sent to Michael who will send members a survey of the top three accessible books and the opportunity to express their preferences. Proposal for the action grant that would support the fall event is due at the end of May. It was suggested that perhaps the author of the book selected or IU scholars familiar with the book might be invited to the event.

Implicit Bias Discussion: January's CCA brainstorming session resulted in the desire of the CCA to increase diversity on the Council. Nick explained that members of his discussion group felt the need for implicit bias training—what is it? What does it look like in society? How does society function? Additional training would pave the way for a more accessible community. Nick further explained that some parts of our community are not represented at the CCA meetings. Implicit Bias training might help us strengthen the work of the CCA. Making training available for CCA members over the summer with feedback for future training in the community is a possibility.

Future Meeting Speakers: A possible speaker might include someone from the deaf community.

Report from the Chair: The next CCA meeting will be conducted by Zoom on June 1st. When meetings are once again held in the city building, it is likely that Zoom will be utilized to include those who are not able to attend in person the CCA's monthly meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:28 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Linda Crawford