

**Council for Community Accessibility  
Meeting Notes for June 1, 2020, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

Susan Russ opened the meeting by Zoom at 4:00 p.m.

Members: Michelle Hahn, Katie Anderson, Barbara Salisbury, Randy Paul, Nick Philbeck, David Carter, Susan Russ, Trish Ierino, Michelle Bright, Sam Farmer, and Linda Crawford.

Staff: Michael Shermis

Guest: Dave Williams

**Minutes:** David moved and Michelle seconded to accept the April minutes as printed. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Balance in the CCA account is \$3,517.18.

**Media:** There was no highlighted media.

**Partner Organizations Awareness & Outreach:** No notices presented.

**Report from the city:** Michael anticipates that the CCA will hear soon about the grant submitted to Indiana Humanities to sponsor the Gather 'Round the Table event. Michael reported that the results of the survey sent to members about the book to be featured and discussed at the event were evenly distributed. Thus, the selection of the book is undetermined at this time.

The City is open for business. Citizens are encouraged to call to make appointments, but most of the staff is continuing to work outside the office. However, the atrium is open.

**New Accessibility Concerns:** There were no new accessibility concerns.

**Guest Presentation:** Dave Williams, Operations and Development Director of Parks and Recreation, showed slides that provided the history and development of Switchyard Park. In the early 1900s, the switchyard served as many 700 railroad cars at a time. In the early 2000-2005 period, under mayor John Fernandez, 3 miles of the original property was obtained to create a pedestrian trail. In 2009, the railroad approached the City about purchasing more land. In 2017, a master plan was developed and the next year construction of the park began.

In 2015, safety in the parks became a concern. The building on the property near Grime Lanes has become a fully accessible police substation. It is hoped that Switchyard Park will be used as extensively as Bryan Park, as actively used parks tend to be safe places.

The park provides a basketball court, pickleball courts, and bocce ball courts that are enjoyed by all ages. There are seats for spectators. The park has Wi-Fi, electrical outlets, and picnic tables to encourage additional use. The courts are near the Grimes Lane entrance, which has

a parking lot for approximately one hundred cars and is accessible. The north and south ends of the park have been designated discretionary spaces.

As the park area was originally a railroad yard, some hot spots of coal ash and cinder remain. This area has been covered with asphalt, eighteen inches of soil and concrete which requires maintenance. The thirty-nine community gardens are thus raised and include several accessible gardening areas.

Other areas of the park include a skate park (open to bicyclists, also) and a splash pad (six unisex restrooms nearby) that is sure to be enjoyed by many as the swimming pools will remain closed during this summer. Two waterproof wheelchairs, one for adults and one for children, are available for splash pad use.

The 11,000 square foot pavilion was used during the December's Farmers' Market and can accommodate up to five hundred people. A push-button door opener is to be installed as well as possible screening for the heavy garage doors of the pavilion.

The all-rubber surfaced playground includes numerous accessible features. The park includes a performance stage and at the very south end of the park is a five-acre dog park that includes lighting, Wi-Fi, and tables.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- A. Accessibility Committee: In Chris' absence, Michael reported that during this time of limited use of buildings, he and Barbara McKinney surveyed City facilities, including the police substation in Switchyard Park, and concentrated on things that can be done to meet accessibility standards that were not cost prohibitive. There will be a report next month on a digital accessibility survey. The sidewalk survey that was to be led by students at the Project School is on hold as the teacher who was to be in charge of the survey is no longer at the Project School.
- B. Transportation and Mobility Committee: Barbara pointed out that the pedestrian signal at 6<sup>th</sup> and College is not working. The committee's May meeting brought four or five new people to the meeting. The June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will include continued planning for a WAV (wheelchair accessible van). She is hoping that a focus group will be formed to look into potential providers, potential users, and potential funders. The educational event will be held on the first Friday in November.
- C. Activities and Events Committee: Susan reported that there are no definite plans for an ADA celebration in July, but there is a possibility that the CCA will have a regular Council meeting that month. There is some consideration to hold the Gather 'Round the Table event earlier rather than near the end of October as has been the custom.

**Other commentaries:** Randy Paul urged the Council to continue to use Zoom after physical meetings are resumed, as it makes the meetings accessible to all. Michael assured Randy that is to be the case.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Crawford