

**Council for Community Accessibility  
Meeting Notes for August 30, 2021, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

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

Members: Michelle Hahn, David Carter, Zoe Waters, Eli McCormick, Katie Herron, Susan Seizer, Barbara McKinney, Nick Philbeck, Barbara Salisbury, Zac Hunek, Julie Miller, Sufiyan Ahmed, Chris Jackson, Coleman Kavgian, Abe Shapiro, Lesley Davis, and Linda Crawford

Staff: Michael Shermis, Michelle Moss

**Minutes:** Last month's minutes were accepted as distributed.

**Financial Report:** Contributions for the September event were received from Stone Belt and IIDC; balance in the CCA account is \$3546.97. An additional \$700 is anticipated from Indiana Humanities.

**Partner Organizations Awareness & Outreach:** Michelle has been meeting with Community Voices for Health and assisting various groups having difficulty taking care of health concerns.

Chris announced that Monroe County Public Library will be holding a series of three sessions on autism in collaboration with the Autistic Society of Indiana on September 18, October 23, and November 13 from 11:00 a.m. to noon. There is no charge, but registration is required. Abe Shapiro, founder of Neurodiversity, is advocating for students and faculty by advising them of services available to them.

**Report from the city:** Michael reported on his latest undertakings:

- As Bloomington is considered a model city of accessibility, he and Barbara Salisbury presented accessible transportation ideas to 325+ people on a webinar sponsored by the Office of Civil Rights, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Dept. of Transportation.
- Attended a national ADA Symposium with Lesley Davis and Barbara McKinney; power point presentation for each of the sixteen sessions were provided.
- Worked with the City's Engineering Department to discuss the importance of design for accessibility in projects. CCA's Transportation and Mobility Committee will review the resulting guidelines.
- Worked with the City's Economic and Sustainability Department to increase the accessible spaces in Bloomington's downtown area; they are suggesting adding 37 more accessible spaces.

- Worked with the City's Planning and Transportation Department and the Transportation and Mobility Committee with technical advice from Health by Designs to make the streets more accessible.
- Met with the City's Planning Department to discuss accessibility concerns when PDDs (personal delivery devices) will be in use.
- Noted repeat problems with the 4th Street parking garage (same as Trades District garage) and is in the process of working with City to resolve those issues.
- Met with the City's Legal Department on the transition plan, required periodically, to discuss how to meet needs as related to ADA statistics.
- Met with Tim Street, Operations Director of the City's Parks and Recreation Department, to discuss the possibility of adding an accessible boat pier on Lake Griffy as well as adding accessible sign language in Spanish and Mandarin at one of the parks on the south side.
- Met with Boys and Girls Club management to discuss accessible parking concerns at Crestmont. (Will meet with the Lincoln Street Boys and Girls Club site in September to do a survey.)

Barbara Salisbury requested that Michael raise the question of how the PDDs will interact with the people who are blind or visually impaired and to look into the use of Smart Park.

**New Accessibility Concerns:** Smith Road and the Henderson/Winslow intersection (something wrong with the traffic light) were listed as having accessibility concerns. Also, Highland, approached by way of Winslow Farms, lacks signage to warn drivers of pedestrians in the area.

**Presentation:** Lesley Davis, Susan Seizer, and Coleman Kavgian used a Power Point presentation to share their proposal of establishing a Mobility Aids Lending Library (MALL) for individuals desiring to borrow mobility aids. Questions concerning how to advertise MALL, where to store the items, hours that the library would be open, volunteers to keep a record of the loan, etc., were discussed by the Council.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Accessibility Committee:** Chris said that there is not much surveying occurring because of the pandemic, though the Fourth Street parking garage's past accessibility deficiencies have been checked to see if they have been corrected. Problems related to the accessibility of Kirkwood dining and the bike lane on 7th Street will be looked into. Michelle Moss is continuing to work with IU students on digital accessibility of businesses.
- **Transportation and Mobility Committee:** Barbara reported that the June 14th Transportation/Mobility event provided opportunities--the transportation committee of the American Council for the Blind has asked Barbara to submit an article for its October edition. Also, there have been requests for articles about what it's like to be visually impaired in Bloomington. Barbara suggested that walkabouts be held to educate neighborhoods about mobility and transportation, which is a major part of a transit system.
- **Activities and Events Committee:** Michael reported that this year's 31st celebration of the ADA was well-staffed by the six organizations that participated. The Library plaza's space worked well and the participants were enthusiastic!

Gather 'Round the Table will be held on September 27th at the Convention Center. Speaker is Dr. Rosemarie Garland-Thomas, co-editor of the book of essays, *About Us*. Zoe Waters, Lesley Davis, Michelle Hahn, and Tiba Walter will all select an essay from the book and provide their interpretations. Thirty-five people have registered thus far.

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