

BACA Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/22/24

Time: 3 – 4 PM

On Zoom

Attendance

Nate Besio, Chair	Ethan Fellows	Elena Rosen
Vanessa Santos Eugenio	Sophie Sauvé	Tim Williams

ASL Interpreting Concerns:

- Challenges in accessing ASL interpreters were discussed.
- Difficulties in reaching out for interpreter services were mentioned.
- Emphasis on making information more accessible for requesting interpreters.
- Shared learning experiences, highlighting the importance of early communication and reserving dates.

Accessibility for Events:

- Committee addressed concerns about event accessibility.
- Vanessa proposed best practices for events, suggesting creating a document available to all city employees.
- Emphasized transparency on accessing funds for accommodations.

Funding and Resources for Accommodations:

- Discussion on funding for accommodations.
- Discussed the existing budget for language access needs.
- Challenges in accessing funds due to lack of information and staffing issues.
- Suggestions to improve transparency and accessibility of funds.

Training on Accessibility Best Practices:

- Presentation of a training module on accessibility best practices.
- Overview of major content areas, including making events accessible, interpreter resources, presentation content, logistics, and staff awareness.
- Emphasis on the need for staff awareness to address accommodation needs.

Action Items:

- Include discussions on accessibility best practices and funding transparency in the next meeting agenda.
- Discussion on inviting Scott to discuss the existing budget for language access needs.
- Review of the accessibility best practices training module in the next meeting.
- Discussion on incorporating language about accessibility and accommodations in event invitations.
- Explore additional resources for interpreter services beyond ASL.
- Investigate options for making funds for accommodations more accessible to all city departments.
- Discussion about the usefulness of a group model for accessibility initiatives, considering attendees' varying access to tools.
- Desire expressed for the City of Burlington to have an accessibility page or sub-site, providing information about the committee's work and resources.
- Emphasis on the need for transparency in discussing the committee's work and providing information to the public.
- Mention of BCA working on building an accessibility page, including sensory-friendly tools and a social narrative.
- Suggestion to consider an easy accessibility upgrade to the city's website, possibly incorporating the UserWay widget.
- Mention of collaborating with the language access team to ensure coherence in accessibility efforts.
- Awareness raised about the upcoming requirement for in-person or hybrid public meetings due to changes in open meeting laws.
- Plans for the next meeting include further discussion on website accessibility.
- The February meeting date is adjusted due to upcoming federal holidays.