



City of Shelbyville
Tom DeBaun, Mayor

Office of the City Engineer

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1/28/2015

RE: Livable Communities Committee Kickoff Meeting Summary
January 26, 2015
Mayor's Office in City Hall
City of Shelbyville

Attendees:

Mayor Tom DeBaun Betsy Stephen Dick Fero
Jennifer Jones Matt House Shane Roell
Don Collins John Thomas Virginia Tutterow
Shellie Ellison Alfonso Andolz Allison Hackman

The Mayor welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. He expressed his support for the committee. Attendees introduced themselves around the room. It was noted that Rob Zimny was not able to make the meeting but will be a part of the committee as well.

Matt House gave a brief description of what role the group could serve. This includes giving the City public input on City issues and figuring out other ways to deal with non-City issues. Matt will temporarily serve as chair until a non-city employee is appointed. The committee also needs a volunteer to serve as secretary, who will coordinate meetings and take minutes.

Shellie Ellison brought up the idea of giving awards to businesses that have made their facilities more universally accessible. It was discussed that the Shelbyville News could be contacted to recognize these businesses in the newspaper. It was also discussed that perhaps we could fabricate a sticker to place in the windows of these facilities to recognize them. Consensus was that this was a great idea.

Shellie also brought up the issue of doorways and hallways on any new home being constructed in Shelbyville to be required to be a certain width as to be able to fit a wheelchair through. She suggested that at some point the Building and Planning Department should be contacted or included in a meeting to bring this to their attention.

Shellie, Tutterow and others mentioned various places around the city that ramps and sidewalks could be improved. During February's meeting, a comprehensive list will be created. Also mentioned was the issue of handicap parking in parking lots and along the street. Often people that do not need to use the spots are taking them because they have a family members placard causing those that do need them to park in other areas making it very difficult for them to get in and out of their vehicles and to enter the facility they are visiting.

State Road 44 was mentioned as a big concern for pedestrians. Jennifer and Matt discussed the difficulties in getting anything done with it being a State Road. Betsy mentioned that she had been working on it and had been talking with State Rep. Everhart.

In general, the group all agreed that our community needs educated on the issues of

businesses, homes, parks, walkways, parking areas and streets being universally, not just handicap, accessible. Everyone agreed that one of the main goals of the committee will be to help educate our community and to be sure that these ideas and suggestions aren't just talked about but followed through with.

The committee will meet again on Monday, February 16th at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Everyone was requested to bring examples of access issues within the city, as well an example of a business that does things the right way.

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