

Athens City Commission on Disabilities

Meeting minutes, January 17, 2018, 5:30 p.m., Community Center

Members present: Lara Edge, Doug Brooks, Pat McGee, Scott Dennis, Robin Brigante, Rose Dikis, Noah Trembly, Berry Dilley, Maxine Rantane, David McNelly

Non-members: Eileen Theodore-Shusta, Patricia Ercoline

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion on committee assignments

- Tabled. Lara asked members to please fill out the committee form again. The first ones were lost.

City County Building Assessment

- Noah Trembly, Doug Brooks, David McNelly summarized their findings when they evaluated the City Building and Fluff Bakery. The city building had several issues with bathrooms, the mayor's office, area, and the elevator. Fluff Bakery was very receptive to suggestions to become more accessible. A full report will be emailed to all commission members once completed. Noah is adding images and organizing the document for presentation to the mayor and City Council.

Year-End Report:

— Commission agreed to ask to get on City Council agenda for Feb. 5 to present findings on the city building and the present the year-end report. Lara has made changes and fixes from the November meeting. s

November minutes

— Approved

Treasurer's report:

- \$3K in the budget.

- Lara pointed out that we'll need funds to purchase new Athena Award trophies since the ones we have are broken. Robin suggested that the artist should make good on them if they are flawed. Three broke without being dropped or touched. Last year's broke and had to be redone. Lara said she had reached out to the artist and believes the mayor had, too, when the first one broke, but the artist (believed to be Kevin Morgan) did not respond. Commission agreed to follow up with mayor and the artist one more time. The cost was \$500 per trophy, some of which the mayor paid for himself.

NEW BUSINESS

City planning vision statement:

- Paul Logue, city planner, could not make it tonight but plans to come to the February meeting to have dialogue about the 2040 plan. Lara has been asked to help edit the vision statement for Athens 2040. It's an opportunity to make accessibility crystal clear. Discussion and suggestions from commission members:

— really liked the word "funkiness"

— felt it was not crystal clear about people with disabilities

— statement is much too long and feels more like goals than a vision

— would like emphasis on affordable housing in Athens city limits. People with disabilities often can't afford to live within in the city.

— the vision statement feels like its not really talking about people but infrastructure

— what about using footnotes to explain who the people are?

- the need for living wage jobs for all
- is it fair that senior citizens don't have to pay taxes?

Recommendation to endorse plan for city to expand its online payment options

- all approved (letter to editor pending further details from the mayor)