

Athens City Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2020

Athens Community Center

Present: Arian Smedley, Scott Dennis, Melissa King (student, OU); Sly Matta, Samarro Dower, jw Smith, Berry Dilley, Madison Moore (sit in, student), Noah Trembly, Carolyn Lewis, Dianne Bouvier, Dale Ellis, Rose Dikis (phone), Davey McNelly (phone)

5:33 pm Dr. Carolyn Lewis called the meeting to order

Introductions

- People introduced themselves and talked about their own connection to disability and why the Commission resonates for them.
- Gender Pronouns - Passed out handout, next month - terms for people with disabilities

Approval of Minutes

- Motion made to approve January 15, 2020 Minutes by Arian Smedley and seconded by Dr. Smith, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- Carolyn Lewis reported that the Commission has \$1,000. Let her know if any committees are making requests for funds. There are other ways to raise money if needed - by talking to Mayor, host fund-raisers, take donations.

New Business

- Carolyn welcomed new members and reviewed Committee assignments.
 - o Dale - join Accessibility Committee
 - o Sly - join Advocacy Committee
 - o Samorra – assigned to Communication, asked to serve on Advocacy instead. Accepted.
 - o jw Smith – assigned to Education and Outreach Committee; asked to also serve on Advocacy Committee, Accepted.
 - o Arian Smedley – assigned to Communications Committee
 - o Mayor asked Dianne to be mayor's proxy. Dianne accepted role.
 - o Information for new members is on the City Council website.
 - o City Commission Adjusted Terms of Membership - Carolyn explained that the new Terms are January 1 - December 31. If an end date comes, then person could start another three-year term. After that, the person would be off the Council for a year, then can be back on.
- ADA 30th year anniversary events – reviewed from Agenda (additional details here)
 - o Intelligent Lives – 6-8 pm, March 30, Athens High School, with food, screening documentary which challenges how we measure intelligence

- Mar 6 – Disability March – Meet at 9:45 am fourth floor Baker Center; Rose asked about media needs; media covered by ACBDD; Rose offered to help
- March 2 - Temple Grandin, Baker Center Ballroom, 7:30 pm; Ticketed movie with intro by Dr. Grandin – noon that day. Contact Alex (kamodya@ohio.edu) to reserve seat.

Old Business

- Open Secretary position – Carolyn made a Motion to nominate Dianne Bouvier, jw and Arian seconded; motion passed.

Committee Reports

- Executive Committee (Carolyn)
 - Had quarterly meeting with the Mayor (1/6/20) and Exec meeting (1/24/20)
 - Prepared materials for new members and worked on added Secretary
 - Reviewed and clarified Terms of Office (handout)
- Accessibility and Mobility Committee (Dianne)
 - Met with Jessica Adine about Stimson Street sidewalk and intersection project
 - Davey is inviting David Riggs from code enforcement to meet with us
 - Met with Jesse Stock from the Athena County Foundation about Accessible Parking Project grant proposal
 - Next meeting March 12 at noon at the City Building – all welcome to come
 - Rob Delach - coordinating a Walk and Roll Audit to give feedback on the intersection of Washington and State Streets. All invited. Start at City Building.
 - Jw asked about audible pedestrian signals –will be included when talking to City.
- Communications – no report, needs new leadership
 - Carolyn will ask Claire to join Communication.
 - Dianne to connect Paige Miller, journalism major, to Communications/Carolyn.
- Education and Outreach (Carolyn and Berry)
 - Disability Festival - March 18, 6:00 - 8:00 pm; Berry Dilley to bring table cloths; Carolyn to bring table info; Coverage: Davey 7:00 - 8:00 pm, Berry 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Carolyn 6:00 - 7:00pm, Sly 6:00 - 8:00 pm
 - No meeting this month
 - Athena Award - has Calls for Artists for Athena Award
 - Oral History project - starts next month - Berry and Joe Burman to be interviewed; Claire Gysegem to videotape and edit. Three parts to series.
 - HR214 – prescription bottles that are audible. Big deal in the blind community. Finding that stores and pharmacies all use different systems, so it's complicated to solve. We should support as a Commission. jw will draft a letter of support for this legislation, on behalf of the Commission. jw could invite someone talk to us about HR214.
 - Letter to the Editor and News Outreach – with Messenger – Heather Willan, Kaitlin Thorn – sent email for meeting. Communication committee would meet with them; Ariana will connect Taylor Bennett with Carolyn, Noah and Davey

- Advocacy (Vacant) – no report

Meet In Committees – ran out of time; Committees will determine whether to organize in person, by email, or by phone. Carolyn will make initial contacts.

Announcements/Discussion

- Davey McNelly, newly appointed to Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council (OSILC); Athens might be able to get into five-year (Congratulations Davey!)
- jw Smith appointed by the Governor to serve on the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council; he'll let us know if there is anything from the State.
- Carolyn Lewis, appointed to the Board for the Athens County Board for Developmental Disabilities (ACBDD) – on Board and Board of United Seniors (Congratulations Carolyn!)
- Are there other 30th year anniversary events? Davey meets with Carey Busch and will ask whether the university has anything planned.
- E-Scooters - people are leaving them at random around pathways. Need more situational awareness. SPIN introduced to campus week of Feb 17, 2020. Monitor and decide later if we need to contact City or University about issues.

NOTE: City Commission meeting on March 18 postponed to Thursday, March 19, same time and place. Carolyn reminded everyone that there is a free conference call number people can use if they cannot attend the meeting in person.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:28 pm

- **Motion to Adjourn** Meeting by Arian, jw seconded. 6:28 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Bouvier, Secretary
Athens City Commission on Disabilities