

Athens City Commission on Disabilities

February 2018 Minutes

Members attending: Lara Edge, David McNelly, Noah Trembly, Doug Brooks, Brian Bucher (by phone) Rose Dikis (by phone) Robin Brigante, Joe Wessinger, Maxine Rantane, Berry Dilley, Christi Hysell

Members not attending: Pat McGee, Scott Dennis, Carolyn Lewis

Guests: Patricia Ercoline, Jesse Schmitzer, Paul Logue, Rob DeLach, Dianne Bouvier, Eileen Theodore-Shusta, Angela Green, Mary April

INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome Christi Hysell, new Commission member

Reappointments of Brian Bucher and Doug Brooks

GUEST SPEAKER

Paul Logue, City Planner. Discussion and feedback on the city's 2040 planning.

- Commission members are interested in helping to identify issues around Athens and help to document the experience of negotiating Athens with a disability.
- Policies for consideration in the plan that the commission thought would be beneficial included opportunity to provide feedback on development plans, incentives for development that meets better standards for accessibility, and walk-through in new projects to give feedback
- How to make Athens inclusive for people with hard to see disabilities, such as autism. Brief discussion on autism--I think we need to learn more about how we can address this. (Paul has a friend on the urban planning faculty at Ohio State who is working on this topic right now, so timing is good).
- The commission is interested in helping the city educate about how to be accessible, to provide educational opportunities—this could include city staff, local developers, architects, builders etc.

- One possible goal for the plan could be for Athens to be a disabilities friendly community. (Question to be answered: organizations that award such a designation or similar that would help us to know what to focus on? For example, Athens is a Bicycle Friendly Community as designated by the League of American Bicyclists (<http://bikeleague.org/community>)).
- Comment was made on getting the city app modified to report an accessibility issue. Paul said he would check on it.
- Vision and principles feedback —should add a principle on wellness to include mental and physical health.
- Vision and principles—tone in bullet 2 neighborhoods and housing should be shifted to not segregate affordable and accessible housing from high quality neighborhoods. Question: how are we defining “affordable housing?”
- Vision and principles—transportation bullet should include the goal of helping people get to their destination (from Rob DeLach)
- Arts West—The commission would like to review the renovation plans in an effort to help make it accessible

JANUARY MINUTES

1st motion: Rose Dikis

2nd motion: David McNelly

All approved