

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
April 15, 2020
Zoom Meeting
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Meeting livestreamed on Athens media page: <https://www.ci.athens.oh.us/278/Video>

Present: jw Smith, Davey McNelly, Dianne Bouvier, Carolyn Lewis, Cheryl Prusinski, Berry Dilley, Arian Smedley, Noah Trembly, Samorra Dower, Paige Fuentes (interpreter)

Not present: Scott Dennis, Sly Mata, Robin Brigante, Preston Silvey, Rose Dikis

Called to Order

Davey called meeting to order at 5:43 pm, meeting via Zoom (set up by Scott Rob). Note technology difficulty for communicating using ASL sign language.

Introductions

- Checked in to see how everyone was doing with physical distancing and personal needs. Everyone shared. Davey reminded everyone that if they need anything during this time to let people know.

Approval of Minutes

- No changes to minutes. Jw Smith made motion to accept the February 2020 minutes, Arian Smedley seconded, motion passed. (Note: March meeting was cancelled due to coronavirus).

Treasurer's Report

- Carolyn Lewis said the Commission has \$1,000 budget for the year (budget on calendar year). She had asked at previous meetings for committees to send requests for funds to her. No committees sent request. Discussion was that last year, the cost of the Athena Award Ceremony was about \$800, for food and printing. Event is planned for November. No money can be held for next year. Funds need can be supplemented by fund raising.
- Carolyn made a motion for the Education and Outreach Committee to receive \$800 of the budget for the Athena Award and that the remainder of \$200 be used for other things that are needed, jw seconded, motion passed.

New Business

- Community Needs and possible ways to address -
 - o Communication Committee is going to start working on communication via social media for letting people know what is available for senior population, ACBDD individuals and others in the community.

- Davey shared that ACBDD has been really busy supporting the people they serve with individual check-ins. During COVID-19, ACBDD has closed all physical locations; is trying to be proactive to give PPE to staff who work in the homes; help staff with self-quarantine.
 - Arian - with ACBDD - identified central duties for food delivery program for school age population and adults who need it as well. Considering doing summer plans virtually rather than cancelling. Providers are considered essential personnel.
 - Carolyn is part of United Seniors - they meet virtually next week and are working on assessment to get accreditation and will know more next week.
 - Dianne works at Ohio University Office for University Accessibility, which has been supporting students and staff to receive accommodations in virtual environment. The “new normal” has been a plus and minus for others with different disabilities and serves as an example of how environment may define whether or not there is a disability impact.
 - Samorra is at the Hopewell Health Center and is seeing families who are impoverished feeling the economic strains no income, being laid off, unemployment. The children aren’t understanding what’s going on and why they need to stay inside. Dianne to send Samorra information about Voinovich Center support.
- Secretary Position for Executive Committee
 - o At February meeting, Dianne Bouvier nominated for Secretary for the City Commission. Noah made a motion to appoint Dianne as Secretary, Samorra seconded, motion passed.
 - o jw asked for minutes to be sent to him in the body of the email along with attachment - Dianne agreed. Davey reminded all that if they need an accommodation or change in process to participate, to let us know.

Old Business

- ADA 30th year anniversary events and Disability Awareness Month
 - o Tabled discussion on Haben Girma and Temple Grandin events to discuss Committees.
 - o Everything else is postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19. Think about ways to promote ADA through social media, other methods in committee. Encourage Education and Outreach, Communication and Advocacy Committees to work on this.
 - o Davey will email information on Crip Camp documentary about the Disability Movement.

Committee Reports

Committee chairs can have regular on-line meetings - Davey can work with Scott on technical parts. Remember we work under Sunshine Laws even when meeting remotely - no secret meetings, subject to Open Records.

- Executive (Davey reported)
 - o Worked on getting remote work set for this meeting, three possible new members who would bring disability and skill diversity to commission for Mayor to consider.
 - o OSILC notes and next steps
 - o Davey is OSILC - Ohio independent council - CILS in urban but not rural areas. Davey's been working with them to incorporate language about rural areas in their document. Strategizing to get additional funding; currently not enough funding for CILS that are in place. May and June - time for public comments - would need to send barrage of comments to support it. With COVID-19, not sure of impact. CILS were appropriated additional \$350,000 - close to enough funding and additional could go to open up for rural site.
- Accessibility and Mobility (Davey reported)
 - o Meet regularly with city planners to look through city plans
 - o Great conversation with David Riggs, Code Enforcement; developed communication for businesses.
 - o Setting up video conference for 5-14-20 for discussing intersections/crosswalks - encouraging those with different experiences and disabilities to attend; June virtual meeting will have someone using phone camera to discuss East State and Washington.
- Communications (no report)
- Education & Outreach (Carolyn reported)
 - o Everything on hold, including Oral History Project with Berry and Dr. Berman to talk with Claire; Nothing to report on Resolution HR 214; Next meeting - virtual - needs to coordinate on letters to the editor.
- Advocacy (no report) - Noah is meeting with them to get them started.

Announcements

- When appropriate, jw requested that we do something informally with fellowship and connection.
- Davey reminded us to keep up the good things we are doing and bring hope to those around you.

Meeting adjourned

- Motion to adjourn by Noah Trembly and seconded by Carolyn Lewis, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Bouvier, Secretary
Athens City Commission on Disabilities
April 17, 2020