

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
Communications Committee Minutes
Thursday, July 9, 2020

The Committee met via Zoom at 5:30 p.m.

Present:

Rose Dikis
Claire Gysegem
Carolyn Lewis
Arian Smedley

Carolyn Lewis called the meeting to order.

The motion to approve the July 30, 2020, minutes was made by Rose. Second by Arian. Motion carried.

Carolyn asked Claire if she would Chair the August meeting and suggested that we rotate chairing the meetings. We will work together on the agenda.

The monthly columns are being published in the Messenger and the letters to the editor in the Messenger and the Athens News. They are also on Facebook. July's column is being developed by Berry Dilley and Sly Mata is writing the July letter to the editor. Rose is writing the August column and the August letter is to be determined. We want to make sure we collect all of the items published for the Commission's history.

Claire has refreshed our Facebook page and is looking at content on our City site. We discussed a Twitter account and decided to table it for future review since it is labor intensive. We decided Facebook best serves the Commission's purposes with the audience we want to reach.

Arian is researching materials the Commission can put together to inform organizations that demonstrate, march, or have mass public events how to make their activities more accessible for people with disabilities – interpreters, Braille, designated spaces, etc.

Arian, Claire, and Rose have been gathering information for a resource list the Commission can pull together and distribute that includes how people with disabilities and PWD who move into the area can get basic needs such as food, help with utilities, transportation, etc. Claire will be meeting with Amanda Sawvel, HAPCAP's Community Resources Manager.

The Committee has been distributing ADA 30th Anniversary information, videos, and stories from the Cronkite School online and to our Media/Organizations Contact List. Specific stories are being sent to the Messenger, Athens News, WATH, and WOUB.

Arian announced a video public service announcement the City is working on about the importance of wearing face masks in public.

Claire requested that a listing of Commission and Committee meetings be made available. Carolyn will send to the Committee.

Carolyn mentioned the Athena Award nomination process is open and that an ad hoc committee of the Commission has been formed to review the Commission's By-Laws.

Motion to adjourn made by Rose. Second by Claire. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Lewis, Acting Secretary