

Commission on Disabilities Accessibility and Advocacy Committee
12:00 PM January 13, 2023
City Bldg., first floor conference room
Zoom link accommodation by request only

Minutes

Present: Dianne Bouvier, Ally Hughes, Davey McNelly, Lisa Simpson, Dan Schoonover, Sarah Doherty (on Teams), Micah McCarey, Annah Abetta-Korpi

Welcome back - Dianne Bouvier and Ally Hughes are now co-chairs for this committee

Introductions – Members introduced each other, Dianne announced one new member, Dick Planisek (not in attendance)

Membership of Committee – Davey McNelly, Dianne Bouvier, Ally Hughes, Micah McCarey, Rob Delach, Annah Abetti Korpi, Dan Schoonover, Lisa Simpson, Sarah Doherty, Dick Planisek
Reminder to ask for accommodations to attend by zoom – contact Ally or Dianne who will contact Patty to get the link

Approval of Minutes Motion to accept November Minutes made by Davey McNelly, 2nd by Annah, Unanimously approved.

Old Business

- Joint letter with Historic Preservation Commission – The Historic Preservation Commission received it; Davey will follow up to remind them to add signatures.
- Annah created a ppt to provide a flow for committee activities for helping businesses become accessible. It includes the code office letter initiative, matching fund idea (City to provide 30k per year and would like the City Commission to oversee process and publicity, with cap per project, preference or treatment for women business owners and minorities, not new builds/remodeling, we need to approve criteria, and create application). Annah made a list of businesses that received sent code letters, brochure to highlight accessible businesses (Jackie O's, braille menus, Passion Works doors), communication and newspaper (PR campaign), inclusion pledge. Idea that Committee will take to full Commission on Wednesday of next week.
 - Davey proposed a motion to discuss with Commission to do an RFP with the city using the matching funds from Athens and be part of the selection process for city's criteria – be as clear and transparent as possible – we would limit deadlines (twice a year) so no more than two cycles, Davey and Annah working on proposal before meeting, There are PR tasks, we would ask Joe to create February and March deliverables and work with Communication and Outreach Committee to provide PR in media. Motion to approve: 1st Dianne and 2nd Lisa. Unanimously approved.
- Pamphlet of what has been done by businesses – how to proceed – Davey has file and will work on this. recommendation to add in current photos of people in Athens.
- Tracking Spreadsheet – next steps – Davey is presenting to the full commission on Wednesday and will make a motion to start using the matrix; Plan is to have Lacey (for The City) start using the matrix in conjunction with Commission
- Question - Sarah – who can create and provide an on-line list of contractors? Non-profit or County Board of Athens? We will need to determine that when the time is right.

New Business

Adult changing tables in the City of Athens - Nice work, Annah, on advocating for adult changing tables! – She worked with Katherine Ann and the community center is getting them! Next step is to find locations at OU to get this approved. Micah: needed at west state street bathrooms at parks

Setting Committee Goals for 2023

Draft 3-4 goals for the new year

Example from 2022

Accessibility and Advocacy Committee 2022 Goals

1. Continue collaborations with City of Athens on improving accessibility
 - Business accessibility project – Accessibility Business Initiative - Pilot Project with Code Office – work with local businesses to create a process for making businesses more accessible.
 - Maintain collaborations with City Engineer on Future City Projects
 - Maintain collaborations with City Planner on ADA Transition Plan.
2. Conduct hybrid Talk, Walk and Rolls to highlight examples of accessible and inaccessible locations and provide ideas for promoting accessibility
3. Initiate Accessible Technology Project
 - Develop handout and training on accessible technology
4. Conduct accessibility audits, planned and by request

Dianne and Ally will draft 2023 goals, incorporating:

- Annah's ideas – project with the City
- Increasing Walk, Talk and Roll impact and number of attendees
- Reinvigorating the pilot project for working with code office
- Members are sending their new ideas

New idea

Provide Communication and Outreach with content and ideas for Advocacy (podcasts, social media, articles, etc.)

RFP

Announcements

- Andrew Chiki is coming to January Commission Meeting to give an update on the City ADA Transition Plan, January 18, 5:30pm
- Pedestrian Accessibility Committee – presenting recommendations to City Council on January 23, 7 pm, City Bldg., third floor. Please come!

Motion to adjourn at 1:02PM: 1st Dan, 2nd Annah. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ally Hughes, Accessibility and Advocacy Co-chair

January 17, 2023