

Education & Outreach and Communications Committee

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Front Conference Room, City Hall and via Zoom for those exempt

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.
A quorum was established.

Present: Carolyn Lewis and Cheryl Prusinski, Co-Chairpersons; Michael Rodriguez; and new member Kayla Bennett;
ASL Interpreter, Tina Jones, Heritage Interpreting; and Practicum Student, Megan Thompson, Heritage Interpreting.
Excused: Berry Dilley, jw Smith, and Rose Dikis.

Carolyn and Cheryl will remain co-chairpersons for 2022 for the combined committees.

The last full minutes from 2021 were briefly reviewed — E/O 1/12/2021 and Communications 2/11/2021. The motion to approve both was made by Michael. Second by Kayla. Motion carried. Note: Due to COVID concerns in 2021, meetings were not regularly scheduled.

Each member was introduced by Carolyn and then they told us more about themselves. Michael Rodriguez, director of Production and Student Professional Development for WOUB Public Media. Michael trains and oversees numerous students and award-winning productions, and has served on the Communications Committee for the Commission. He took video and photography for the 2021 Athena Award Ceremony and interviewed and recorded award creator Luke Hawk. Kayla is a Journalism major, assistant culture editor of The Post, section editor of Thread Magazine, treasurer of the OHIO Society of Professional Journalists, editorial intern with Rural Action's Appalachian Staple Food Collaborative, and an OHIO Fellow. Both bring incredible talents and skills to the Committee.

Cheryl introduced herself and Carolyn highlighted the other three Committee members who were unable to attend.

Michael asked about the Committee structure within the Commission and Carolyn explained.

2021 Review

Education and Outreach

Most of the focus centered was on the design and creation of the new Athena Award with local artist Luke Hawk and the virtual Athena Award ceremony. Carolyn once again commended Berry in absentia for her work with Luke in getting such a beautiful award completed.

Communications

The Committee was successful in establishing a monthly Athens Ability column with the Athens News, and a number of columns and letters to the editor in the Athens Messenger. A Resource Guide was developed and a brochure for businesses for access by persons with disabilities. The Committee promoted The Walk and Roll and the Athena Award which garnered pre- and post-ceremony coverage.

Goals for 2022

- When possible, continue reaching out and speaking to civic and other groups. Cheryl and others promote disability concerns through much of what she does in her teaching profession and other venues.
- Continue Letters and Columns
- Revisit Facebook and other social media to promote the work of the Commission. Both Michael and Kayla have expertise in these areas.
- Work to brand everything we do for consistency.

Michael asked if there was any discussion about changing the logo. Carolyn said she had not heard but would take it to the Executive Team.

There was no old or new business. Cheryl said she is excited about the ideas, talents, and energy our new Committee members will bring, especially in reaching a younger audience through social media.

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the front conference room, City Building and also via Zoom for those exempted from attending in person.

The motion to adjourn was made by Cheryl. Second by Michael. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes by cbl
2-8-2022