

Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting  
February 10, 2023, City Bdg, third floor Council Chambers

Minutes

Present: Ally Hughes, Dianne Bouvier, Rob Delach, Lisa Simpson, Dan Schoonover, Dick Planisek,  
Remotely: Annah Korpi; Lacey Rogers

Welcome

Ally Hughes called the meeting to order at 12:03pm.

- Welcome and Introductions around the table. We have a new member, Dick Planisek, who is an architect and has experience with ADA and other guidelines.
- Reminder - Committee members can request accommodations due to a disability to attend meetings by zoom; members can attend by zoom without accommodation – they would not count toward meeting quorum or have their votes count.

Approve January Minutes

- Davey made a motion to accept the minutes, Dianne seconded, motion passed.

Old Business

- Historic letter re: using stamped concrete uptown on intersections
  - Davey talked to Maryann about it. Letter is still not signed. Keep this in the agenda for March, David will continue efforts to get letter signed.

New Business

Goals for 2023

1. Continue collaborations with City of Athens on improving accessibility
  - Code Office – work with local businesses to create a process for making businesses more accessible
  - City Engineers – review and consult on Future City Projects
  - City staff and Planning Office – get updates on and support ADA Transition Plan
  - Implement Accessibility Matrix Process
2. Develop collaborations with Athens businesses – “Accessible Business Campaign”
  - Develop a matching grant program
  - Conduct accessibility consultations, planned and by request
  - Meet with Chamber of Commerce
  - Develop brochure to highlight businesses and accessibility guidelines for other businesses
  - Develop Accessible Technology brochure
3. Conduct hybrid Talk, Walk and Rolls to highlight examples of accessible and inaccessible locations and provide ideas for promoting accessibility

Draft Goals, to be finalized and approved at March meeting.

Determine roles across each initiative

Reviewed Goals for 2023

1. Continue collaborations with City of Athens on improving accessibility
  - Code Office – work with local businesses to create a process for making businesses more accessible
  - City Engineers – review and consult on Future City Projects
  - City staff and Planning Office – get updates on and support ADA Transition Plan
  - Implement Accessibility Matrix Process
2. Develop collaborations with Athens businesses – “Accessible Business Campaign”
  - Develop a matching grant program - (Davey, Annah, Lisa, and Dan – inviting a member of Chamber to join)
  - Conduct accessibility consultations, planned and by request (Dianne, whoever is available)
  - Meet with Chamber of Commerce (Davey)
  - Develop brochure to highlight businesses and accessibility guidelines for other businesses (Davey to start)
  - **Develop Accessible Technology brochure** (Dianne, Ally to start)
3. Conduct hybrid Talk, Walk and Rolls to highlight examples of accessible and inaccessible locations and provide ideas for promoting accessibility (everyone)

Lacey will be liaison between community relations committee and let us know about possible collaborations

Announcements

- David Riggs, Director of Code Enforcement, invited for March meeting – no response yet
  - Possible questions: Are there any upcoming renovations above 40,000 mark that pushes to state code office. What is the code office doing now to promote accessibility? What is happening with rental properties.
- City engineers, Saleh Eldabaha and Jessica Adine, invited to join meeting in April - they can give project updates and answer our questions:
  - Washington and State Streets, could include Court and Union. AA Committee gave them issues - what have they included from our recommendations in the design? Could they send a link beforehand to look in advance. Who is the outside consultant doing streetscape design?
  - Union Street projects – any changes or update?
  - Tell us about what is being proposed for 682 and Union -- where will pedestrian connections be? Any information on Shared use path federal grant to connect to Morrison Elementary School?
- June 9<sup>th</sup> Walk Talk and Roll – we will plan later
  - We have a format: Davey describes the route, Rob does live stream
  - Review notes from last event
  - Think about identifying where we want to do it this year
  - Ally can help with her students again.
- Davey and Annah can put in calendar for ABC

Review the Pedestrian Accessibility Plan recommendations related to accessibility

- Discuss – where can the Commission/AAAC support implementation?
- Maybe bring both committees to Commission Meeting to review

Davey said the next ABC meeting is Wednesday, Feb 15 noon zoom meeting – Andy Stone will attend; discussion on the matching grant; they will discuss who might be eligible – business/non-business?

Lacey – announced there is a committee for an arts collaborative – arts creative projects –March 21-23, Arts West – looking to brainstorm on project for people to work on throughout the year. Lacey will send details.

Annah announced she knows of a photojournalism master student interested in taking photos for the PR campaign for collaboration with businesses or to document other activities.

Adjourn - Dianne made a motion to adjourn, Dick seconded, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Bouvier, co-chair  
Accessibility and Advocacy Committee  
February 12, 2023