

Athens City Commission on Disabilities

Minutes

February 15, 2023

Athens Community Center (or via Zoom with ADA request)

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Chairperson Davey McNelly called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.

Quorum

Secretary Ally Hughes established the quorum. Present: David McNelly, Dianne Bouvier, Lisa Simpson, jw Smith, Micah McCarey

Via zoom: Annah Korpi, Joe Brumfeld, DEI/A Coordinator and Mayor's Designee to the Commission Lacey Rogers

Mission Statement

The Mission was read by Joe.

It was noted that the mission statement should be included as part of the agenda for every meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

Dianne made the motion to approve the January 2023 minutes. jw seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

\$2,500 is the FY 2023 Commission budget from the City. If committee has need for monetary support then contact Carolyn.

Lisa made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Micah seconded. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ad Hoc Pedestrian Safety Committee Update (Dianne)
 - o Presented final draft of Plan to City Council on 23rd of January, 2023. Requested council members make comments, 47 recommendations in report, some focused on including ADA standards for the city and contractors.
 - o Carolyn, Kayla from Outreach and Communication produced a video of Carolyn demonstrating the intersection of Court & Union
 - o jw provided an update from another meeting that city renovations will start 2024 and include 3 audible crosswalks, longer time for crosswalks
 - o Plan brought to Voinovich, next step to give "final" version to City Council
- Accessibility Matrix introduction (Ally)
 - o Identifying and tracking accessibility projects and needs

- Ally creating google form and sending to Commission members to test
 - Goal: follow up every 2 months, keep Lacey updated, follow up with EPW, put a link on the city commission page
 - Items to be added to the tracking sheet/matrix: 1) intersection of Stimson and Carpenter, needs lead time or pedestrian-only designated crossing time before light turns green. Right now there is a “no turn on red sign,” but both pedestrian and vehicular lights change at the same time, creating unsafe intersection, 2) Stimson Ave parking issue
 - Jessica and Saleh – Dianne will send a new letter about Stimson and Carpenter
 - Matrix/tracking sheet process: whenever someone wants to add something then we add it but then we prioritize each item, and connect with exec committee member
- Vote on new Commission member (Davey)
 - Deb Burleigh – Davey sending her information and voting through email – reply all with response

OLD BUSINESS:

- City Grant for Accessibility for buildings and businesses (Annah)
 - Update on ad hoc grant committee work
 - Drafted language for matching fund application, masters photography student will assist

COMMITTEE REPORTS

-- Executive Team (Ally, Davey, Dianne)

- New Member Orientation upcoming (before March Commission meeting 2023 for Deb, Annah, Ally, Micah as 2 new members)
- template for Commissions from Chris Knisely (there’s a committee with Steve, Patty, and Lisa) – template to create consistency
- We need to check our by-laws about being appointed for 2 years and then taking a 1 year sabbatical in terms of exec team? Or overall membership?
- Discussed Goals for 2023
- jw asked about connection with OU. Davey meets with OHIO’s Accessibility Office (Carey). Suggestion to contact Christina Perez, Director of Student Accessibility, there used to be an Accessibility Liaison group at OU

-- Accessibility and Advocacy (Dianne/Ally)

- Goals for 2023 – sent email with draft of goals and then voting on it
- Next meeting: March 10th at noon – City Building

-- Outreach and Communications (Carolyn provided update via email)

- Didn’t have quorum
- Working on Goals for 2023
- Next meeting March 14th, 5:30 pm

- Announced that November 1st is date for Athena Award

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Annah: Adult sized changing table with Dean McCarthy, consider Noriko as member; Davey suggested inviting her to join a Committee before that.
- Micah – shared document with proposed community recognition initiatives; separate from Athena and others, suggested to be ongoing opportunities for thank you letter, DEIA- add to future agenda for feedback
- Pedestrian accessibility committee would like to present and discuss the recommendations with Disability Commission and committee members – have committee and commission meet together – review in April?
- October 15th white cane safety day (Ally meeting with jw)

The motion to adjourn was made by Dianne. Lisa seconded. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Secretary Ally Hughes
2/19/2023*