

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
March 16, 2022
Athens Community Center (or via Zoom)
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Davey McNelly called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

ESTABLISHING QUORUM

Present: (online): Tiffany Beals; Dianne Bouvier, Vice Chairperson; Joe Brumfield; Rose Dikis; Ally Hughes, Secretary; Carolyn Lewis, Treasurer; Micah McCarey; Davey McNelly, Chairperson; Michael Rodriguez, jw Smith
(In person): Cheryl Prusinski, Lisa Simpson, and ASL interpreter Nico Fuentes

READING OF THE MISSION

Joe Brumfield read the Mission.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Motion to approve the February Minutes was made by Dianne and seconded by jw. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT – The City budgeted \$2,000 for FY 2022.

Expenditures

12/31/2021 Walmart – Chromebook	\$329.00
12/31/2021 Amazon – Jabra Speaker	<u>167.27</u>
	\$496.27

Balance \$1,503.73

The Chairperson asked for approval. Unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- Walk, Talk, and Roll
 - o Davey presented recent plan and asked for feedback on accessibility and spaces to highlight.
 - o Developed from one of the accessibility committee members, Rob. He hosted discussion groups where they would walk around different parts of town and talk about code. Last year was Uptown on Washington and intersection of State Street and Court Street.
 - o Facebook live and in person this time. We need to have plants at businesses that we go to – highlight their accessibility. Here's how to ask for accommodations.
 - o Ideas from Commission members:
 - Ally: Gift cards with a scavenger hunt
 - jw: Walking tour at Community Center – Rose's idea
 - Cheryl: Support for scavenger hunt – inviting engineering students

- Davey – may need an amplifier or drum (Cheryl’s suggestion, Joe can provide?), packaging as lunch and learn, who do we want to showcase? Zoe’s fine dining hidden ramp
- Carolyn – Brenen’s has a small ramp
- Rose – Casa has a ramp
- Dianne: likes Cheryl’s idea of going inside of some places – CVS could be good one because it is congested
- Tiffany: Bagel Street
- Lisa asked if we have highlighted parks? Davey responded that assessment have been completed on a few of them.
- Carolyn presented that Ally is interested in Exec. Team Secretary role. Dianne made a motion that Ally be approved as Secretary. Seconded by Carolyn. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Davey reviewed information about Committee Meetings, Zoom, and how to ask for accommodation

COMMITTEE REPORTS

-- Executive Team

- Davey reported that in keeping with the passing of HB 51, we will be meeting on Zoom through June. We are keeping room reservations for people who want to meet in person. Members should contact Davey or Dianne if arrangements need to be made to get technology to site

- Davey announced that the Exec. Team has added Ally who agreed to serve as Secretary

- Mayor Designee Report - Dianne meets with the Mayor quarterly in her role as Mayor’s designee. Update on DEI position – still pending City Council approval. Asked him to write a column – he asked if Commission would draft something for him first. He talked about new projects: the renovation on Washington and State. New emergency room hospital from Marietta memorial. New housing project on Westside of town. He asked Commission to work on putting together a budget for next year with submission in August.

-- Accessibility and Advocacy

- Davey announced the committee drafted Goals for 2022 (sent as meeting attachment), that they are working on a Live Talk, Walk, and Roll for June 10 at noon, and doing follow up on Pilot Project for Accessibility Audits. A lunch or a follow up event was suggested.

- The Committee met with EPW department – they just completed ADA training, Dianne commented that the Federal Highway Administration might have slightly different standards than the ADA. Stimson: Better overall but a few spots could still be updated for accessible parking and missed opportunity of some businesses with one step in front of their building where they could have added a ramp.

- Micah mentioned the Committee updating the City's existing punch list to include accessibility

- Dianne reported that most of ARTS/West was pretty good, they use a lot of work arounds, Davey and Dianne are drafting an accessibility assessment. Two resources: ADA Readily Removable Barrier checklist and National Endowment for the Arts checklist.

- Next meeting is April 8th at noon.

-- Communications, Education and Outreach

-Carolyn reported that the committee will continue with Commission Member Spotlight (she asked all new members to send her a photo and a short bio), Columns and Athens Ability, gave a speaking history before COVID, have talking points for others who are interested in engaging community. Developing promotion plan for Talk, Walk, and Roll. Also, ARTS/West is already booked for Athena award event. Nominations will be welcome soon.

-Are there any issues of interest on which we need to focus? We need to continue columns and letters to the editor. One possibility: leading up to Walk, Talk and Roll, is to highlight Stimson improvements and what needs to be improved in the future.

- Next meeting is March 12th at 5:30 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-Cheryl on Columbus Dispatch – termination of deaf CEO of Deaf Services Center, replaced with interim director with no knowledge or relationship of Deaf community, planning to talk with board and OOD is now becoming aware of those issues. Has called news channels to get coverage of issue. The Commission offered support.

Carolyn will be doing a talk and book signing at the Athens Public Library, from 2-3 on Saturday, March 19.

ADJOURN

jw made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Rose. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allyson Hughes
Athens City Commission on Disabilities, Secretary
Date March 25, 2022

Approved with revisions on 4/20/2022