

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
Outreach and Communications Committee
Minutes

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 – Via Zoom

Carolyn Lewis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

A quorum was established.

Present: Kayla Bennett; Rose Dikis; Carolyn Lewis, Co-Chairperson; Chris Linscott; Sandy Shirey; and jw Smith. Guest: Deb Burleigh.

Excused: Cheryl Prusinski, Co-Chairperson.

The motion to approve the April 12, 2022, minutes was made by jw. Second by Chris. The motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS

Each newer member introduced themselves: Chris, Sandy, and Kayla. We welcomed guest Deb who has a special needs child and is interested in revisiting the bowling alley and increasing recreational activities that serve as a lifeline to those with disabilities. (Deb saw the notice in the Athens News about the meeting and wrote to the Commission's email address for information on how to join.)

NEW BUSINESS

- *Revisit Speaking Engagements*
jw will follow up with the Unitarian Church and The Lions Club; Cheryl will be asked to follow up with Rotary; and Carolyn with Kiwanis and Civitan. Chris volunteered to be one of the speakers.

jw suggested the Executive Team follow up with Deb's bowling alley concern. Chris noted that we need to also look at the bigger issue of how the loss of such facilities is a huge loss to the community – nothing has emerged to fill the void. Carolyn said the paper might be interested in doing a more in-depth series about the loss of the bowling alley and the absence of a breadth of activities. Chris added that we don't want to lose focus on the broader perspective. Start with the bowling alley and lead to wider issues related to those that serve as a lifeline. Rose said she could assist.

Deb said Chris stated the issue succinctly and she will outline a column for the July newspapers, and we will circulate it among the Committee to fill in any gaps and finalize. We will also write letters to the editor. Ultimately, a strategy needs to be developed starting with the bowling alley and extending to others. Sandy offered her excellent writing and editing skills. Carolyn invited Deb to serve on the O/C Committee. She will think about it.

OLD BUSINESS

- *Walk, Talk, and Roll Coverage*
Carolyn highlighted coverage the Walk, Talk, and Roll received and the extensive usage of our information by all media. We discussed some of the event details and how much participation we had. She mentioned the support of the new Messenger/News editor Allan Brown, as well as WOUB and WATH. Rose commented on how broad the message went out about the event, including distribution of flyers, and that we need to get people to know that we exist as a resource.
- *Athena Award Nominations Promotion and Start Planning Event Details*
Athena Award promotion will be June through August for encouraging nominations. The deadline is September 1. Joe Brumfield is designing a flyer. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2 from 5-6 p.m., ARTS/West. Nominees and recipients for the past two virtual years will be invited to attend and to be acknowledged. jw said it would be good to have five to 10 nominees this year and to make it a nice affair as in the past when we were live. Kayla is skilled in videography and will assist with producing the event. Deb made an additional suggestion of a person to help if needed. We discussed catering and will explore Mitzi Lous, as Deb suggested, on West Union since they hire people with disabilities and the food is good.
- *Social Media*
Kayla has been trying to gain access to the Commission's Facebook page. Carolyn will follow up with Ryan and Scott with The Government Channel. Kayla will post features and has developed a form to get ideas for various platforms.
- *Columns and Letters to the Editor*
Carolyn encouraged everyone to consider writing a column or a letter. We just need the idea and the basics. Others will review, edit if needed, and submit.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made at 6:18 p.m. by Rose. Second by jw. The motion carried.
The next meeting is Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Lewis
June 14, 2022