

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
March 17, 2020
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Minutes

Meeting was held via Zoom and set up by Scott Thompson and Ryan Schwartzhoff with the Government Channel.

Call to Order - Meeting was called to order by Davey McNelly at 5:02 pm.

Establish Quorum

Present: Dianne Bouvier, Claire Gysegem*. Carolyn Lewis, Davey McNelly, Lisa Simpson*, Arian Smedley*, jw Smith, Noah Trembly; Scott Thompson and Ryan Schwartzhoff (Government Channel)

- Six Commission members were present at the beginning of meeting, *3 joined after roll call; 6 members constitute a quorum. Quorum established.

Reading of Mission – jw Smith read the mission.

Approval of Minutes

- jw made a Motion to accept the February 2021 minutes as written, Noah seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Carolyn reported that nothing has changed since last month's report. The City allocated \$3,000 to the Commission, \$1,800 is for the Call All Artists awards, \$1,200 for the Athens Award event and other Commission expenses that may arise.

New Business

- Dr. Gaskell from Athens City County Health Dept. was invited to be a guest speaker to give an update on COVID and vaccinations and how they impact people with disabilities.
- Dr. Gaskell gave a history of COVID, talked about testing, discussed initial shortages of PPE, testing and limited vaccines, which all improved over time. Now there is more vaccine coming to Athens and people need to register through the new State system.
- Fauci said 70% of people need to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity.
- If people are given the vaccine and have a reaction, they can notify the place they received the vaccine and give them information to provide to the CDC. Suggestion to let the community know about this protocol. So far, only 9.1% have had reactions where they miss one day of work. No one has died from any of the vaccines. Every week they are getting more dosages.
- Schedule a vaccine at: gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov

- Davey announced the Accessibility Committee Walk and Roll Audit – Lunch and Learn with City Source, on April 8th at Noon, all are invited to attend via Zoom.
 - o Asked Communications Committee to give support on publicity and flyer request

Old Business

- SOCIL Steering Committee - Davey reported that they had another great meeting yesterday and they are on track to open more services for SOCIL. They have already provided services for people in Athens County. Writing a news article about that.

Committee Reports

Executive Team

- Education for Community Center that personal assistants can accompany people when using community Center
- Exec Team is inviting Committee Chairs to Summer Exec Team meetings – to learn what the Exec Team does and touch base midyear
- Next meeting – March 26th at 1 pm

Accessibility

- Dianne reported that the committee has drafted two letters related to accessibility to be signed from Code Office and Accessibility Committee. The first will be given to entities applying to do construction or renovation. The second will be given to entities that have been reviewed by the Accessibility Committee, indicating what might need accessibility improvements. These will be discussed with David Riggs, Code Enforcement, at May meeting.
- Next meeting – April 8 at Noon via Zoom (Walk and Roll) – join us!

Communications

- Arian – reported that first Athens Ability article was published – bravo to Dr. Lewis!
- Ideas for early next month – could do article on Walk and Roll. Arian will connect with Davey and Dianne on that.
- They could also do a press release on the Walk and Roll event and SOCIL.
- Lisa, our new commission member will be highlighted in another press release.
- Next meeting – March 8th at 5:30 pm

Education & Outreach

- Carolyn reported that the Committee selected Luke Hawk as the new designer for the Athena Award. He is a graduate of the OHIO College of Fine Arts, with a degree in sculpture. Kevin Morgan (Kevin Morgan Studios) designed the first award and will consult as needed.
- They are developing a speaker's bureau for people to present to civic groups – email Carolyn if you are interested in doing that.

- Next Meeting – April 13th at 5 pm

Advocacy

- Jw reported that they needs to ask the Communication Committee to do a story to publicize about the advocacy committee. They are bringing in speakers.
 - o April 6 - Autumn Brown will speak
 - o May – someone from Ohio Legal Rights
 - o March 24 - Noah is speaking
- Next meeting – April 6 at 5 pm

Announcements

- Next meeting – April 21, 5:00 – 6:00 pm
- Discussion re: future speakers - think about ways to have conversation/questions answered. Send questions ahead of time - ideas to allot some time for speaking, some for Q&A.
- Arian thanked everyone for their participation in the A News Special Edition – there were write ups about the Commission and HAVAR
- Advocacy – Noah will be speaker on evening of 24rth via zoom – go to Integrate Athens or the ACBDD website for zoom link information.
- OU is doing in person Commencement – if anyone needs accommodations, contact appropriate people (Event Planning or Student Accessibility Services)

Adjourn

- Dianne made a motion to adjourn, Carolyn seconded. Davey adjourned the meeting at 5:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Bouvier
Secretary, Athens City Commission on Disabilities
March 17, 2021