

**Athens City Commission on Disabilities**  
**April 21, 2021**  
**5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

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

**Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order by Davey McNelly at 5:03 p.m. Announced that Mayor Steve Patterson will attend our next meeting.

**Establish Quorum** – Dianne took attendance to establish quorum.

**Present:** Dianne Bouvier, Claire Gysegem. Carolyn Lewis, Davey McNelly, Cheryl Prusinski, Lisa Simpson, jw Smith, Noah Trembly; Nico Fuentes (ASL Interpreter), Scott Thompson (Government Channel)

- Eight Commission members were present; seven members constitute a quorum. Quorum established.

**Reading of Mission** – Noah Trembly read the mission statement.

**Approval of Minutes**

- Carolyn made the motion to approve the March 17, 2021 minutes; jw seconded. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Carolyn reported that we have \$1,800 for design and production of six Athena Awards and \$1,200 for November event and other expenses, \$3,000 total. The ASL interpreter fees are out of the Mayor's budget. jw made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Dianne seconded. Motion passed.

**New Business**

- Discussion with Mayor Steve Patterson about updates with Athens City Government is tabled until next month's meeting.
- Walk and Roll Audit – would like to make this a regular annual event. Event went really well. Rob and Davey did a great job reporting from the street. Thanks to the Communication Committee and Dianne's column which helped raise awareness.

**Old Business:**

Walk and Roll Event

- Reviewed event – about 15 people on Facebook; others watched later or on public access station. Good questions and comments. Hard to know how many came. Participant recommended that "7 Ways to Make Your Business More Accessible" be made into a brochure and given to businesses.

- Spread to other communities via YouTube posting:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKXsr3rqoFs>
- Suggestion for future to have a public gathering after the event; helpful to still have online component for those who can't attend in person. Could review a location that we are happy with, to educate people about it. Could coordinate Walk and Roll with a previously existing event to attract more audiences (not during fest. season). Could end at an establishment that made needed changes to make it accessible. Aim for late March/early April. This year's event was Thursday at noon. Could do a couple of Walk and Rolls each year in a different part of town.

## Committee Reports

### Executive Team

- Noah reported that the Exec. Team met and finalized details for April 8 event, talked about needing to resume meetings with Steve Patterson. Set up meeting and invited the Mayor to speak at Commission meeting.
  - Discussed meeting with City officials quarterly to bring awareness to accessibility.
  - Mayor will send us information on the 12 people/areas of responsibility who attend City staff meeting.
  - jw said to frame accessibility with the City's goal to be inclusive and value for diversity.
- Committee Chairs are invited to Summer Exec. Team meetings.
- Next meeting, April 23 at 1 p.m.
- Discussion
  - jw asked about having OU representation as a liaison to the Commission. Davey had talked with Carey Busch in November, but they didn't have capacity. He will follow up with her.

### Accessibility

- Dianne reported on the Accessibility Committee.
- The Walk and Roll was previously discussed. Thank you to Communication Committee and all participants – this event was a great example of how the committees can work together to support the Commission's efforts.
- Next month we will meet with David Riggs from Code Enforcement and in June we will meet with Jessica Adine in the City Engineer Office to hear about upcoming projects.
- Discussion
  - Davey thanked all participants in the Walk and Roll – Noah Trembly, Jessica Adine, Andrew Chiki, Rob Delach, Davey McNelly, Tiffany Beals, Dianne Bouvier, and Scott Thompson and Ryan Schwartzhoff with the City, and the Communications Committee members.
- The next meeting, May 13 at Noon

## Communications

- Claire reported for the Communications Committee. They will work on SOCIL press release, which needs a form. They developed a form that she will send to Commission committee chairs so they can gather project details together for us. Allow a two-week notice to effectively publicize an event. Send to Claire and copy the Committee.
- They have a feature published for Lisa Simpson as newest member of Commission. Will be posted to Facebook.
- Athens Ability Column – Asked Davey if he would write a column on vaccinations for May. He agreed.
- If anyone has ideas for topics, email them and let them know.
- Reviewed Communications Plan for Walk and Roll – press coverage was phenomenal, thanks to Dr. Lewis. WOUB added depth and provided a lot of context to mission of the Walk and Roll.
- If you have anything you want shared to social media page – send to Claire.
- Discussion:
  - Nice job on highlighting Lisa and Advocacy Committee.
  - Cheryl asked for clarification about the form. It documents if you want the Communications Committee to put out any communications for your committee or Commission at large. Let Claire know if you have feedback on the form. They need two weeks lead time before an event/deadline.
  - Davey said that they will start process earlier for next Walk and Roll.
  - jw – Form is a great idea. Suggested sending to chairs of the committees at first and they can spearhead connection and coordinate communication.
  - Let Claire know the most accessible format. jw said that most screen readers don't do well with pdf. Excellent with Word. Good with Google docs. Claire will send to chairs in different formats.
- Next meeting, May 13 at 5:30 p.m.

## Education and Outreach

- Carolyn reported that the committee reviews their goals every time they meet
- Oral history – Claire interviewed Berry Dilley and Dr. Joe Berman for the first one; Mayor Ric Abel will be the next one.
- The committee has a Plan B to get more ideas for the Athena Award II design and will know more next week.
- Next Meeting, May 11 at 5 p.m.

## Advocacy

- jw and Lisa presented about the Advocacy Meeting. Autumn Brown from Integrate Athens was the guest speaker at their most recent meeting. They are involved in many areas - community collaboration, school age transition, ableism and how that has affected people living with disabilities. They could be a resource for us.

- Their May 4 speaker is Alison McKay, a lawyer from Disability Rights Ohio. Asked her to talk about who she is, what she does, how her org. could be helpful.  
Email: [amckay@disabilityrights.ohio.org](mailto:amckay@disabilityrights.ohio.org)
- The Communication Committee asked for her information to use for publicity.
- Next meeting, May 4 at 5 p.m.

### **Announcements**

- Claire said the Access Ability articles are published the first week of the month. Davey will send something soon.
  - Carolyn, Dianne, Claire, Rose – work as a team to edit.
- Anti-Racism and the Arts meeting tonight – sponsored by Stuart’s Opera House. Email jw for Zoom link. Discussion about how arts can become more inclusive.
- jw sending his keynote address from the Athens Black Summit, Feb. 18, 2021
- Lisa announced about Putt People First – gold course opening May 15. Volunteer maintenance repair on May 1 and May 8 on Golf Course. Located on the Ridges by the pavilion shelter. Volunteers needed.
- Davey thanked everyone for their hard work. Welcome back Cheryl.
- Next meeting, May 19 at 5 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

- jw made the motion to adjourn; Cheryl seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dianne Bouvier*  
*Secretary, Athens City Commission on Disabilities*  
*April 23, 2021*