

The Athens City Commission on Disabilities
Advocacy Committee Meeting Via Zoom/The Government Channel
Minutes — May 4, 2021

Chairperson Sly Mata called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. A quorum was established.

Present:
Sly Mata
Lisa Simpson
jw Smith
Noah Trembly

Minutes from the last meeting will be approved in June.

Everyone offered why they serve on the Committee. Sly said the Committee has made strides, is moving forward, and has established an identity. Thanked everyone for their work as volunteers on the Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Sly has been trying to meet with various people to try to bring attention to those with disabilities not getting equal treatment and equal benefits. He often runs into a brick wall. Asked Lisa to join him in this effort.

He thanked Lisa for inviting the last speaker, Autumn Brown with Integrate Athens, and thanked jw for inviting today's speaker. Sly asked the Committee to look for other opportunities to collaborate and partner to foster more advocacy power.

GUEST SPEAKER

He Introduced the speaker, Alison McKay, attorney with Disability Rights Ohio. She described their client-driven services and advocacy processes. They cover the entire state. She explained the teams in her office, the issues on which they focus, and how they establish priorities.

She said the best way we can collaborate with associations like hers is too contact the communications director because they promote the services they are doing. They are also trying to promote their services. They are also trying hire someone who can train others to do advocacy. These people will be available to speak with or work with the Commission. She is going to check on how to help people with disabilities who did not receive a stimulus.

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Next meeting: June 1, 2021, at 5 p.m.