

## **Athens City Commission on Disabilities Accessibility Committee Minutes**

May 13, 2021

Meeting via Zoom

**Called to Order** by Committee co-chair Davey McNelly at 12:02 pm.

**Present** – Tiffany Beals, Rob Delach, Carolyn Lewis, Davey McNelly, Dianne Bouvier, Noah Trembly

### **Approval of Minutes**

March Minutes were accepted and approved unanimously. There were no April Minutes since this was our Walk and Roll Event.

### **Agenda Items**

#### Public Forum and Walk and Roll Follow up

Discussion about Walk and Roll Event. Overall, everyone thought it was successful, especially for a first-time event. Great tech support from the City, super preparation and planning, good practice that we had done previous work using a person on-site and the rest of us on Zoom (helped to understand what tech glitches might happen), worked well to have the City involved in presenting, notable that the entire Committee had a part in the Walk and Roll. Helpful to have scripts. Superb work by the Communications Committee. Agreement to make this an annual spring event (zoom and in-person) and to start on it early in the 2022 year, with information to the Communications Committee two months in advance.

#### Follow up to Event

- Interest in communicating the 7 ways businesses and programs could become more accessible. Interest in communicating hidden accessible entrances. Interest in having Communications Committee help with relaying message.
- Reviewed and edited Dianne's list of 7 (attached). Ask Claire to assist with fun design for handout/brochure. We need to fill out request form.
- Tech project – Tiffany said tech accessibility could be incorporated into communicating to businesses. might be part of tech project.
- Davey will put together samples of what store/business entrance signs could look like. Discussion about how much information to include and realization that the main goal is to enable people to connect with store to gain access and ask questions. Laminate signs so they last.
- Dianne will connect with Chamber of Commerce and ask if we can come to the next meeting to talk about accessibility and seek their assistance in distributing information. Start with Committee – UBA Committee Chamber Jessica Thomas (Brenan's Owner)

#### Other Ideas for next year:

- In person and on zoom, to increase access
- Start planning earlier, give info to Communications Committee - two months lead time

- Invite the mayor and other City Officials
- Show what has been improved since last year (“positive plants”)

### **Planning**

- Davey will follow up with David Riggs (invite to June) and Jessica Adine (move to July) – ask about Simpson, signage clarity during construction.
- Davey will invite Arian Smedley, Terry Moore and Kevin Scurmock to come to assessment of West Side Park in August.

### **Meeting with Mayor and Staff**

Exec Team is meeting with City leadership later this month. Opportunities for training – what types of training would be helpful. Accessible city consortium, help identify what’s out there. Ask for specific work to be done (curbcuts that aren’t being redone through street scaping. Sidewalk grinding.)

Exec Team is having a Pre-meeting on Monday – send us ideas about priorities.

- Rob said that people mention they use bike lanes as an accessible route to stay out of roadway. Bike lanes not always maintained well. Glass, broken, inspection process – does engineer know what to look for to assess for accessibility.

### **Announcements**

- Next meeting June 10th at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Davey said that Anna Korpi and Rachael Burns are interested in joining this committee.
- Rob is on board for Zoning Appeals and let Committee know that a request was approved for new apartments located with Larry Conrath Building. 3 of 8 will be ground level accessible apartments. Lack of accessible housing stock in Athens. Can attend later May meeting or submit written comments prior to. Targeting middle income, Nice apartments. 1000 sq foot apartments.

### **Adjourn**

Davey made a motion to adjourn, Tiffany seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.