

Athens City Commission on Disabilities

July 21, 2021
Athens Community Center (In Person!)
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER - Davey called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

ESTABLISH QUORUM - Dianne established quorum.

Present: Dianne Bouvier, Rose Dikis, Carolyn Lewis, Davey McNelly, Cheryl Prusinski, Arian Smedley, Noah Tremby; Guests: Darrell Davidson. Nico Fuentes (ASL Interpreter)

READING OF MISSION - Carolyn read the mission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Davey tabled approval of June 2021 Commission minutes until next month.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Carolyn reported that budget is \$3,000, \$1200 for general and \$1800 for newly designed Athena Award. So far \$400 has been spent on Athena Award. If committees would like to bring requests for funds, send to Carolyn, who will bring them to the Exec Team before coming to the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

- Good collaboration with Accessibility and Communications Committees to develop brochure for the Chamber and area businesses on accessibility, pilot to work with Code Office to send letters to identified businesses re: accessibility improvements, template for signage for store fronts about accessible entrance and related info.
 - o Cheryl asked about including suggestions for Deaf patrons. Example, when an order is ready, they currently call out a name – could they have a visual option – maybe a visual or electronic screen. Could they have a Picture menu for those with learning disability? Cheryl will get Davey a resource list developed through Deaf Architects.
 - o Conversation about signage at the front of each building with accessible Athens logo – so people can know what to look for. Arian said people had asked about making easily editable. Dianne asked if we could make text bigger – form is template and can be enlarged. Are there symbols we could add on to minimize words and simplify form (i.e., toilet image)
 - o Business needs to make determinations – does staff know where accessible menus are? The staff need to be informed.
 - o Brochure – would go out to everyone with the City Code/Accessibility Committee letter. Also do a push with the Chamber of Commerce and other businesses.

- Carolyn will lead the August meeting and Davey will be at a conference. Carolyn set up with Sandy Shirey at ARC for Red Cross Emergency Preparedness is invited to August meeting to talk about 911 website connected with the County Emergency Preparedness. This may be a good topic for future communication piece to help communicate that people can get registered. There are text capabilities. Ask question about text capabilities to guest speaker next month.

- Membership Changes
 - o Davey confirmed with Sly that he is leaving OU position and will be unable to continue with commission. Sly’s seat on the Commission is open.

- Looking for new people with different disabilities, let people know. They may want to start on a committee and consider later.

OLD BUSINESS

- Committee Timelines – Carolyn asked committee co-chairs to notify her of regular meeting times and she will send out to get publicized. Notify her immediately if a meeting is cancelled or changed.
 - Davey said that the Accessibility committee now meets second Friday of Month at noon at the City Building.
 - There was discussion about committee meetings happening before or after Commission meeting. This is possible if there is not a conflict with members being on more than one committee.
 - Berry is stepping in for Claire on Ed and Outreach committee
 - Noah is stepping in for Sly with the Advocacy Committee

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Team

- Davey invited Committee Chairs to attend a summer Exec Team meeting. Davey will send zoom invitations for the August 20, 1:00 pm meeting.

Accessibility

- Davey reported that David Riggs asked that the Accessibility Committee look at the Engineer's Office and Code Enforcement Office. Noah said he met with Jessica and is looking at entrances. Located on Curran Street.
- Committee provided draft of joint Code Enforcement/Committee letter to David Riggs, to be sent to businesses that need accessibility improvements. He is reviewing with the mayor.
- Question about SeeFixClick, the City Source app – can a letter be auto-generated? Is there a priority list, what happens if isn't able to be done now.
- Next meeting – August 13 at Noon

Communications

- Arian reported that the Communications Committee did not meet but they worked by email. Upcoming writing needs - Member spotlight, column, and letter to the editor. Carolyn nominated Cheryl for member spotlight. Carolyn will help.
- Discussion about facebook at the last meeting. Need to review process for getting things added to facebook. Question about how someone becomes an Admin. When they have updated Admins, they can develop a schedule for approving and rotating posting.
 - Arian – there is a Disability Commission page and a Group page. Rose will call Arian to fix this and they will make it an agenda item at next Communication meeting.
- Athens Ability – recent column with Athens News. Berry and Carolyn wrote it together about the Athena Award. Carin Colvert is the new editor at the Messenger.
- Letter to the Editor – Column for August. Cheryl will write something on creating deaf friendly spaces and will send to Arian the week of the 9th or 16th.
- Intent to get postings on the City site and Disability Commission site to cross share communications.
- Noah recommended the topic about home health aides not getting vaccinated. Davey and Noah to write together.

Education & Outreach

- Carolyn reported that there was no meeting last month. The designer is working on new award.

- Event details: November 3 – from 5:00 – 6:00 at Arts West. Event had parking issues last year. This year they are asking Arts West to not have any other events that night, so they can get parking spaces. Also requesting some spaces by cemetery.

Advocacy

- Committee did not meet. Noah will work with Committee to reset meetings, with Sly leaving.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Carolyn has been cloistered and is writing a book about her journey in nursing home care. She also created a greeting card line called LifeDay, which got it trademarked. Great Carolyn!! Passion Works is helping to assemble and distribute.

ADJOURN

Noah made a motion to adjourn, Arian seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Bouvier
Secretary, Athens City Commission on Disabilities
July 25, 2021