

Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting

Friday, July 8, 2022, 12:00 – 1:00

Athens City Building, First Floor Conference Room

MINUTES

Attending: Davey McNelly, Dianne Bovier, Annah Korpi, Tiffany Beals, Lisa Simpson, Rob Delach

New Committee Members: Sarah Daugherty, Dan Schoonover

Dianne started by welcoming new committee members, Sarah Daugherty and Dan Schoonover. They each talked briefly about their career paths and related experiences.

Lisa Simpson moved for the committee to approve the Minutes from the May meeting. Davey McNelly seconded the motion.

Walk, Talk and Roll Review – The committee discussed the pros and cons of the event. Pros being the tremendous turnout (50+ at Armory and 30-35 on the Walk Tour).

The Walk Tour was good to cover the positives of accessibility and point out the negatives which provided a good balance of both.

Rob was wondering about the camera angle as he couldn't see the result while filming. He **will be assessing the video so he can make adjustments the next time.**

Better amplification of the microphone is needed. Perhaps using a portable PA system or not live broadcasting and putting the video online later.

We will need more water and less food the next time.

Accessibility. The Armory's parkway is slated to be made more accessible when remodeled over the next year.

Some folks would have preferred more masking and more social distancing even though it was outside due to fragile immunity.

Review and Update "Accessibility - Pilot for Local Businesses" - The committee is aware of 5 business locations that would be visited more often if they were more accessible. The committee decided to assign plans to make initial contact.

Davey and Dianne talked with Zoey's prior to the Walk, Talk and Roll tour. Zoey's is a positive example of accessibility.

CVS on East State Street could use better Aisle width. **Lisa and Dan will make the initial contact.**

Tiffany will make initial contact with SOL Restaurant.

Dianne will make the initial contact with White's Mill.

Davey will research ownership of the Athena Grand on East State Street and attempt to set up a meeting. Joe mentioned electricity is needed for oxygen, rest rooms need better accessibility and their doorways and entry way doors are a challenge.

Construction at College and Union - There is also construction happening on College St. And West Union Street under a University project – the infrastructure under that intersection. It would help to have the intersection raised at the curb cut. Discussion about the distance between the curb and street and accessible curb cuts.

Davey spoke with Christine Perez, Student Accessibility Services and she said he would need to talk to Carrie Bush, the O.U. ADA Coordinator who will be back from vacation the week of 7/11.

Handout and signs for businesses - Creation of signs and handouts for businesses has been started, but the member that was working on this project left. Davey moved the template to Microsoft Publisher. This is how he made the sign for Zoey's.

Davey has a program for a 3 page (tri-fold) document to give to businesses to help them understand how to make their spaces more accessible. The committee will discuss how to distribute when completed. **Davey will also follow up with the Athens Uptown Business Association regarding distributing the pamphlet.**

Athens Pedestrian Access Committee: - They are gathering input via a survey. 24 people responded the first night and 84 the 2nd night. Their goal is 300 responses. To access the survey, **Davey will provide a link and QR Code.**

Announcements - Joe is completing the artwork on some posters.

Tiffany mentioned that a committee member with low vision that uses a walker for mobility has had trouble accessing the bike path that goes under the road by the Round-About traffic circle. When going under the bridge to get back to street level, they saw stairs in their vision and didn't see the accessible path. Tiffany asked if we could approach the city to put a marker near the bridge that indicates where the accessible path is located.

Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting

7/8/22 - Page 3

OU uses some accessible signage for pathways and we may need to check with Athens City Engineering or Parks and Rec. **Davey will send a quick email to Catherine Ann Jordan and cc Dianne.**

Catherine Ann Jordan has been very open to making things better for all citizens.

It was agreed by the committee that we could do better as a community with having more accessible signage.

The city invited some of the committee to come to the 9/22 meeting regarding the East State Street construction/design before they implement.

The Stimson Avenue Project – The ADA accessible space is to be moved to a space that's easier to park.

Strouds Run – The Women of Athens Facebook Page voiced “the Beach is not accessible”. Board Members of Strouds Run, Ruth Dudding and Meredith Erledine, made suggestions. The Athens County Health Department Board has grant funding available to do some accessibility work.

It would be good to blacktop a section to the beach so folks could get down to the water.

It was suggested that we email to see if someone can serve on this committee.

Davey mentioned that he was impressed with Jackie O's interest and flexibility for talking with them regarding accessibility.

It was also mentioned that there are 3 Ukraine fund raisers happening in connection with Brew Week.

Stop by the Tap Room and experience the new outdoor space.

Tiffany asked if there is anyone to make sure the community events are accessible?

Davey mentioned that the ADA aspect of the job description for the new city position looks like mostly HR with hiring. It was suggested that the committee needs to push for more responsibility to work on accessibility issues. Perhaps when getting approval for event spaces. It was asked if there is a way we can give guidance to the city. This might be a good use of the new pamphlet.

Brandon Thompson is very interested in accessibility issues but it is overwhelming to remember.

Davey McNelly motioned to adjourn. Rob Delach seconded.