

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting
August 11, 2023, City Bdg, first floor Conference Room, 12:00 – 1:00pm

Minutes

Present: Dianne Bouvier (co-chair), Ally Hughes (co-chair), Davey McNelly, Rob Delach, Lisa Simpson, Dan Schoonover

Not present: Micah McCarey, Annah Korpi, Sarah Doherty

The meeting was **called to order** by Ally at 12:06 pm.

Quorum established by Ally.

Note to review who is still active on committee. Dianne will invite Stephanie Hunter to officially join.

Approval of Minutes

Ally noted that May's minutes were not approved due to not meeting quorum in July. Dianne made a motion to approve May and July minutes, seconded by Davey. Committee voted to accept minutes for May and July.

Comments on Walking Audit at 682

- Rob and Stephanie participated, along with Meredith Erlewine from the Health dept. and Amy Lipka, from Age friendly Athens County (invite Amy to future meeting).
- Walked Armitage Road to 56 interchange – difficult place to cross – terrible for pedestrians. City will be building roundabout. Crosswalks and sidewalks will be added.
- Difficulties with railroad crossing, which involves working with the State.
- Strong interest in safe pedestrian infrastructure since Kershaw Green is opening and adding 192 units of affordable housing
- Noted that the City will be installing sidewalks, some areas are currently too steep.
- The next walk audit is County-wide - Jackson, Trimble, and Gloucester and starts at Gloucester at the Kroger, 5:00 August 14, this coming Monday
- NOTE: Davey noted that the Active Transportation Survey is still active. Rob will send survey link to Dianne/Ally who will forward to the Outreach and Communications Team to resend the link about the survey.

Follow up for Walk, Talk, and Roll

- Dianne asked if there is anything outstanding from the WTR and suggested we send thank you's to those involved.
- We thanked ourselves for doing a great job. 😊
- Thank you list and who will send notes:

- Passion Works for lending tent (Lisa)
- Ally's students (Ally)
- City Arts, Parks & Rec for lending and delivering microphone and speakers – Erin Helms and Katherine Ann Jordan (Ally)
- Speakers – Chris Knisely, Andy Stone, Annah Korpi, Sarah Doherty (Dianne)
- Tim Jones (Lisa)
- Sponsors: DEI – Micah McCarey and Salome Nnoromele (Dianne), Echoing Connections (Davey), Good Will (Davey), HAVAR (Davey)
- WOUB (Dianne)
- Lacey for photos (Ally)

Accessible Business Project Update

- Davey reported that Lacey, Davey, and a Code officer met and awarded \$30,000 in grants for projects with 6 businesses.
 - Brenen's (expand doorway and push button), Bagel Street Deli (accessible door), Athens Photo Project (accessible space), Passion Works (accessible chairs), Little Fish (table extensions), Kinnear Flats (accessible apartments and storefronts)
 - Important to publicize these awards – press release? (Davey said Annah is doing this)

Drafted letters to EPW on priorities for curb ramp project and City Council to support funding for sidewalks upgrades

- Dianne drafted initial letter for EPW and compared EPW list with Pedestrian Accessibility Report priorities. Rob will continue with ranking list and created google folder for documents. Reviewed/edited during committee meeting and finalized after meeting adjourned.
- Dianne will format letter to Council and send out for signatures.

Misc.

Future Guests:

Meredith Erlewine – Healthy Communities/Health Dept. - Ally will invite to October meeting

Amy Lipka – Age Friendly Athens County – Dianne will invite to September meeting

Next meeting: September 8, 2023; 12:00 – 1:00, City Building, first floor conference room

Meeting Adjourned at 12:59 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Bouvier, co-chair

Accessibility and Advocacy Committee

August 12, 2023