

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
Education and Outreach Committee

Minutes

January 7, 2020

5:30-6:30 p.m. – The Laurels

Present:

Berry Dilley and Dr. Carolyn Lewis, Co-Chairs

Joan Butcher

Rose Dikis (phone)

Claire Gysegem

Berry called the meeting to order.

Athena Award Review

Dismayed, mortified, and dis-heartened because five nominees were not included in the 2019 ceremony due to emails/applications being directed to a “ghost” email account. Communicated with nominators to give the explanation and deepest apologies, and they agreed to have names included in 2020. The email situation has been corrected and is checked regularly. Several Commissioners and the Mayor’s Office now have the ID and Password. Nomination forms have been modified to inform nominators to call the Mayor’s Office if they have not received email confirmation of their nomination within a week. We discussed ceremony adjustments for 2020: Where the interpreter stands; parking; lighting; not blocking the screen; having the nominee seated until after information is read; the process for entering and exiting the stage; round tables (having refreshments available during the ceremony); and the caterer. Commended Claire on the images and the video.

Calling All Artists: Athena Award II

We will be posting fliers around Athens and sending electronically to organizations on the Commission’s Contact List, etc.

2020 Oral History Project

We will conduct at least two interviews a month with Commission organizers and early Commission members. (In some instances, there will be two people interviewed jointly such as Berry and Dr. Joe Berman who worked together during the early years and beyond). Interviews will be posted on the Commission’s site, our FaceBook page, and potentially archived in Alden Library and the Athens Public Library. School libraries are also a possibility. The history will be organized in three sections: Early period (two years before approval by City Council exploring what could be done); the first years; and what has happened since 2004.

Monthly Features

Proposing that an article be written/published once a month for print media about issues pertaining to disabilities with local angles. The Interim Editor of the Messenger, Heather Willard, is already on board. Commission members, Education and Outreach Committee members, and community members (i.e., Dr. jw Smith, Rob Delach, and Dr. Dianne Bouvier) are encouraged to write articles and/or submit ideas. Dr. Lewis will develop a schedule for 2020.

Sub-Committees for Special Project/Issues

Rose moved that we have a sub-committee to explore a Center for Independent Living (in consultation with Dave McNelly who has been appointed to the State CIL Council). Second Dr. Lewis. Motion carried. Berry will also talk with Noah and others on his committee about accessible housing.

Other

- Continue to engage with civic organizations. Include Veterans' organizations and the Chamber of Commerce. Joan will be liaison to the Chamber; Berry, the Veterans.
- Will place links for Conversations from Studio B programs related to disability issues on the Commission's site and on FaceBook.
- 2020 marks the 30th year of the signing of the ADA.

Minutes/cbl