

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
Communications Committee Minutes
Thursday, August 13, 2020

Present:

Claire Gysegem, Chairperson

Rose Dikis

Carolyn Lewis

Arian Smedley

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 by Claire.

The motion to approve the July 9, 2020, minutes was made by Rose; second by Carolyn. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

New Committee members are welcomed. Claire asked us to brainstorm and bring suggestions to the next meeting. Names mentioned were Robin Webb and George Mauzy.

OLD BUSINESS

ADA 30th Reflections

- Claire commented on the excellent materials we received from the Cronkite Center and were able to post to Facebook. We discussed the Mayor's Press Conference and the Proclamation. Emily Votaw at WOUB did a great story on the ADA and Blog interviews with Davey McNelly and with Claire. The interviews also aired on WOUB Radio.

Monthly Column and Letters

- **Carolyn** will contact Kaitlin Thorn, Messenger Editor, to talk about letters and columns. **Rose** is writing the August Column and **Annah Korpi**, a member of the Advocacy Committee, is writing the August letter. Sly's letter will be revisited by the Commission once he returns. **Carolyn** will ask jw to write September's column based on his Athena Award experience last year. **Claire** will write September's letter possibly on the census or voting. Claire will encourage other Commissioners to submit ideas and/or write columns and letters. Arian reminded us that October is National Disability Employee Awareness Month. Carolyn noted that WEAK Radio requested a one minute spot based on the column Cheryl Prusinski wrote. Carolyn wrote the spot and sent it and also to WATH. She suggested we write a 1:00 spot for each column and letter to send to the stations. **Claire** will write these. We might call these spots "Disability Speaks."

Facebook

- Claire will focus upcoming social media content on the census and voting. Rose suggested we also write straight news releases about these and other topics.

Materials for mass events

- Arian has developed “Accessibility/Disability Inclusion Considerations for Marches and Rallies” which lists the general considerations in planning, communications, along with additional details regarding local disability/accessibility consultants, ASL interpreters, Braille, and accessible websites. Discussion focused on what organizations to reach and methods to reach them. **Arian** will contact the Police Department to see if we can get names of organizations that have requested permits in the past and **Claire** will contact OU’s Student Senate and OU’s Student Engagement.

Resource list

- Claire has developed an extensive resource list for people with disabilities in the Athens area who need help meeting basic needs and will send it to us after the meeting. All inquiries for assistance can be directed to 211 – United Appeal. Resources Categories: Food Access, Transportation, Bill Assistance, Primary Care/Mental Health, Housing, Employment, Direct Support and Services, Furniture and Clothing, Home Repair and Home Rehabilitation, Legal Services, and Community. We will **make the list available** to Commissioners and on our sites.

Athena Award update

- Claire reported on the Education and Outreach Committee’s decision to opt for a virtual award ceremony to be hosted by Mayor Patterson on The Government Channel and also available on Facebook and social media. The Committee will promote the event, create visuals, and work with the Education and Outreach Committee on details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next meeting September 10 at 5:30 p.m.

The motion to adjourn was made by Carolyn; second by Rose. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Carolyn Lewis, August 14, 2020.