Athens City Commission on Disabilities
August 19, 2020
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Minutes
Meeting recorded via Zoom and broadcast on the Government Channel

Call to Order at 5:30 pm

Meeting was held via Zoom set up by Scott Thompson and facilitated by Noah Trembly

Establish Quorum

- Dianne Bouvier announced a roll call and established Quorum.
  Present: Dianne Bouvier, Scott Dennis, Rose Dikis, Berry Dilley, Claire Gysegem, Carolyn Lewis, Davey McNelly, Cheryl Prusinski, jw Smith, Noah Trembly; Paige Fuentes (ASL interpreter), Scott Thompson (technical support).
  Not present: Samorra Dower, Sly Mata, Arian Smedley

Reading of Mission

- Carolyn Lewis read the mission.

Approval of Minutes

- One correction from Berry Dilley.
- jw Smith made a motion to approve corrected July 15, 2020 Minutes. Seconded by Davey McNelly and motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

- Carolyn Lewis reported the Commission continues to have a balance of $1,000. City asking for commissions to be conservative with funds. Original budget for Athena Award event was for $800. Since event will be virtual, budget needed reduced to $150. ASL services, funded through and budgeted $1930 from the City. To date $480 spent with a couple of outstanding invoices. Anticipated that we will spend $960 of budgeted amount. Rose Dikis made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, jw Smith seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

Information on CIL and possible site

- Davey shared a ppt about Center for Independent Living and proposed course of action for Athens. Next steps are to form a workgroup (Davey and 8-10 people), find an accessible office space, ideally with shared phones and internet. One person would join SOCIL board. Amendment is needed for State plan. Staff person needed. Jordy would do more from there. Contact Davey if interested in joining work group.
- Question as to whether the Commission could be a branch of the work group? Davey will find out more about this.

- Welcome to Claire Gysegem who has been approved as the newest member of ACCD. Claire has done a phenomenal job with ~~eth~~ the Communications Committee and is officially chairing that committee.
- City of Athens Comprehensive Plan Draft Review and Feedback
  Noah reported that the City has started working with his consultant firm to identify improvements. Dianne reported that Paul Logue had forwarded the Draft City Plan for final review. She sent to Commission members for input and summarized response to Commission review. Overall City Plan intentionally included accessibility and inclusion. Letter forwarded to City Planner attached to Minutes.

Old Business:

By-Laws Committee Update

- Carolyn gave an update on the By-Laws Review. The committee found minimal changes, mostly to update timing around seating new members (moved to January to coincide with new Exec office timing), schedule for Athena Award (new deadline is through September, giving October to prepare and November event). Updated to show that mayor's proxy is a voting member. Lisa ~~Eliaison~~ Eliason reviewed changes and took out all indication of voting by proxy, which is not allowable under Ohio Sunshine laws.
- These changes do not require review or vote by City Council. Next step is to have 30 days for Commission to review before voting on changes at September meeting and adopting. Davey thanked Carolyn and By-Laws committee for their good work!

Committee Reports

Executive Team

- Davey talked about the mayor reading the ADA 30th year proclamation at the Mayor's Press Conference. Davey, Carolyn, Noah and Dianne spoke, representing the work of the Commission's committees. The Mayor was pleased with presentation and is grateful for work of the Commission.
- Rose – thanked Carolyn, since she always thanks everyone.

Accessibility

- Dianne gave an overview of Walk and Roll process for reviewing Washington, Court and West State Street pathways and intersections (crosswalks, sidewalks, protruding objects, parking, entrance access, etc.). Rob Delach showed areas on his camera and committee took notes. The last meeting focused on synthesizing data and creating list of general guidance for the City.
- Subsequent to Carolyn and Samorra's initial review of the City pool, Davey, Dianne, Mayor Patterson, and Noah looked at pool for accessibility improvements. Mostly ok, needs actuators for restroom doors and Hoyer lift, rail for entree into zero access space. Accessibility Committee will send summary to City.

- Davey talked about inviting Rebecca Miller from Age-Friendly Athens County (AARP) to Commission meeting. Could be opportunities to interconnect on some of their work with public spaces.
- Next meeting – September 10th at Noon via Zoom.

Communications

- Claire gave update on Letters and Monthly Column. Carolyn will connect with Messenger to be sure letters will be published. There is sometimes a lag ~~form~~ from when submitted and when published. Rose Dikis is going to write in August about becoming disabled later in life. Annah Korpi wrote a letter advocating for inclusion for children with disabilities in pods as pandemic continues.
- Letters are turning into weekly spots on the radio. Talked about name for spots – Disability Speaks, Ability Speaks, will brainstorm more at next meeting.
- Facebook page – Claire Gysegem continues to add content and post. Please continue to like, comment and share!
- Interest in being sure people with disabilities are counted in the Census and have information to vote.
- Arian Smedley is developing a resource about accessibility for marches and rallies. This will be given to Athens police dept. so orgs can receive info when they request permits.
- Claire is developing a resource list for people with disabilities in Athens. Berry suggested she connect with other groups who have such information.
- Next meeting September 10th at 5:30 pm via Zoom.

Education and Outreach

- Berry Dilley announced that Committee will host virtual Athena Award Ceremony. Deadline is October 1. They will go through nominations, select three to bring to Commission with recommendation and finalization ~~before~~ as they are also planning for event.
- jw Smith sent out emails to civic orgs to ramp up interest in Athena Award, Calling All Artists, and the Commission in general. He connected face to face with the Veterans group. They meet every two weeks and may be good partners with Commission, maybe the CIL. jw will talk with them to see if there is interest in being on Committee or Commission. Carolyn Lewis connected with the Civitan group. In September, jw will talk at Chamber of Commerce Small Business meeting.
- Next Meeting September 8th at 5:00 pm via Zoom.

Advocacy

- Committee did not meet this month. Black Lives Matter letter to Editor postponed.
  Condolences to Sly in the loss of his mother Serena Anderson.
- Next meeting September 14th at 5:30 pm via Zoom.

Announcements

- Claire announced that the City of Athens is offering rental assistance to help residents. Funds also available for Perry and Athens County. Go to HACPAC.org for information.
- Next meeting September 16 at **5:00 pm** via Zoom. (Please note time change from 5:30 to 5:00)

Adjourn

- Noah made motion to adjourn, Carolyn seconded. Meeting adjourned 6:28 pm.
- Nice job Noah, leading the meeting!

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Bouvier
Secretary, Athens City Commission on Disabilities
August 22, 2020