

**Athens City Commission on Disabilities
Accessibility Committee
September 10th, 2020
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Minutes**

The Commission on Disabilities Accessibility Committee meeting was held remotely and recorded through the City Government Channel on Zoom.

Present: Davey McNelly (co-chair), Noah Trembly (co-chair), Rob Delach, Tiffany Beals, Dianne Bouvier, Eli; Guests: Paul Logue (Athens City Planner), Joe McCabe and Frank (Developers for City Housing Project); City Government Technicians.

Call to Order

Davey McNelly called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm. All participants introduced themselves.

Agenda

Affordable Housing Commission and Affordable/Accessible Housing Project

Joe McCabe and Frank – work with Woda Cooper based in Columbus Ohio that has 300 properties, Ohio-based projects (inc. Nelsonville School renovation). The company is familiar with Ohio, develops and manages properties, and care about tenants. Their focus is on affordable units that feature accessible units, use universal design concepts and allow people to age in place. Sixty percent is senior housing.

Working on current housing project at intersection of Route 682 and Luhrig Rd in Athens. The development will have two projects a 51-unit site and 56-unit site, around an existing pond. Joe showed a preliminary site plan - existing pond in the middle, sites connected via accessible walkways. Creating accessible areas – including grading, parking out of flood plain areas. They found that concrete is preferred for longevity and maintaining accessibility. They are integrating extra ADA parking spaces to have 6 accessible ADA units for each parking area (3 - code required). Total of 12 ADA units (four each of 1-, 2- and 3- bedroom units) dispersed throughout project, including 4 sensory units. 3-bedroom units have an extra ½ bath. Other units have clearances and thresholds for hallways. Additional blocking for future grab bars, etc. so people can make accommodations later. Their goal is to plan ahead so people can live there longer.

Everything will have access to public community spaces –grades. Community building space has an onsite manager.

Access points are from both Luhrig Rd. and Rt. 682 for traffic flow.

Reworking grades (max. 2% cross-slope and 5%), storm water pond.
Breezeways part of pathways with some facing parking lot and some pond.

Roll in showers, front, side clearances, accessible washer/dryer hook ups

Affordability - 30-80% median income - Athens county - rent income eligible - single bedroom income level (\$14,000 – \$39,500); 3-bedroom (\$21,000 - \$56,000).

Housing costs - Rent for units based on income limits – One bedroom - \$396 - one bedroom - will consider utility allowance to lower cost. Uses a HUD model. Three bedroom - \$850.

Timeline - Break ground for construction next spring and complete in time to start leasing summer of 2022. They would like to keep in touch with Paul and co-chairs, identify when units are available. Need to target marketing better.

Sensory apartments for sight impaired and Deaf/Hard of Hearing – have visual strobes/auditory cues for fire alarm, doorbells, smoke detectors; additional lighting for surfaces in kitchen areas, detectable warnings, high contrast work surfaces.

Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) awards credits – interested in finding underinvested pockets based on Census areas - Athens County determined to have a lack of adequate housing. Athens City has been working for a long time to find affordable, accessible housing.

Discussion/Recommendations

- Use 42" doors instead of 36".
- Add in places for public transit to come into the development.
- Review right of ways to bike path and public transit.
- Spaces that are autism spectrum friendly (noise reduction), adjustable lighting
- Features that work for those who cannot stand (lowered stoves, fridge units, etc.) Ohio University engineering faculty/students could be partners in designing universal design equipment.
- When designing outside spaces for hearing impaired, consider lines of visibility for communication and safety.

Accessibility Committee/City Commission is interested in following up in 9 months to discuss exterior decisions. Send written comments with ideas for additional features to them (via Paul Logue)

Age friendly Athens County Committee

Paul Logue co-chairs with Shawna Bolin. Committee working to understand issues around equity, housing, transportation, sustainability, 8 given through AARP and sustainability. They are a large coalition with government agencies, senior groups, university and want more people to be involved. Could add another advocate for disabled community. Dr. Lewis might be plugging in. She is on the Diversity and Inclusion committee. Davey said that the Commission has been discussing the natural bridge between the Accessibility Committee and AARP subcommittees for Parks and Public spaces, and Housing Committees. Davey sent co-chair email. Rob is on the Transportation Committee. Paul suggested that maybe once they get into topical discussions, they can convene a focused meeting to talk about situation of aging and disability. He will send survey instrument to seek feedback from the Accessibility Committee.

Moved to next meeting

Review Spreadsheet for Washington and State St Streetscaping Projects. Davey and Rob will continue to edit and photos to Assessment.

City Pool Accessibility

Discussion on City Pool Audits from Davey and Dianne, Carolyn and Samorra's audit notes, and Accessibility Committee members comments

Dianne will send final report to Mayor Patterson, Patty, and Accessibility Committee members.

Athens Community Pool Accessibility Committee Accessibility Audit (DRAFT NOTES)

The Accessibility Committee felt that overall the intention to make the community pool accessibility was appreciated. We noted the following accessibility features:

- Accessible parking
- Accessible pathway into the facility
- Entrance had adequate clearance
- The service counters were at appropriate heights
- The picnic table area had spaces built-in for those who use wheelchairs
- The interiors are accessible for four family-friendly/single person restrooms
- The interior of the men's and women's restrooms have accessible toilets, showers and pathways
- Two pool lifts

There were three areas that would improve accessibility that we recommend the City make provisions for including:

1. Accessible exterior doors on the restrooms. The force required to open the exterior doors exceeds the 8.5-10 pound minimum allowed by law under the ADA.

A long-term recommendation is that all restroom facilities have accessible exterior doors, with push button actuators.

In the interim, the City could make adjustments to the four family-friendly single person restrooms by adjusting/lowering the force needed to open the doors or even better would be to remove the door closers altogether.

2. Hoyer Lift

While the pool has lifts for helping people get into the pool, some community members would require a way to safely and independently transfer from their wheelchair to the pool lift. The recommendation is to purchase a four-point Hoyer lift, like the hydraulic one shown. People would bring their own slings to accommodate personal lifting needs. Recommendation that the lift be able to accommodate 350 pounds.

[Classic Hydraulic Person Lifter](#) (link to style recommended by Davey McNelly and Carolyn Lewis; approximate cost: \$610)



3. Rail for Zero-Entry Pool

To provide safe entry into the pool, a side rail on each side of the pool, which goes from the pool deck into the water, would provide stability while entering and exiting the zero-entrance pool.

Below is an example of how a community pool in Tennessee created access to the pool ramp.
(provided by Tiffany Beals)



Announcements

Next meeting October 12th at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting Adjourned

Davey made a motion to adjourn, Dianne seconded. All agreed. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Bouvier
Accessibility Committee member
September 10, 2020