

Athens City Commission on Disabilities

September 16, 2020

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Meeting recorded via Zoom and broadcast on the Government Channel

Call to Order by Chairperson McNelly at 5:35 p.m. Meeting was held via Zoom and set up by Ryan Schwartzhoff.

Establish Quorum

Carolyn Lewis established the quorum. There are 13 Commission members; seven members constitute a quorum. Ten members are in attendance.

Present: Commissioners David McNelly, Carolyn Bailey Lewis, Scott Dennis, Rose Dikis, Berry Dilley, Claire Gysegem, Sly Mata, Cheryl Prusinski, Arian Smedley, and jw Smith. ASL Interpreter Paige Fuentes; Technical support Ryan Swartzkoff, the Government Channel; and new Communications Committee member Michael Rodriguez.

Not Present: Dianne Bouvier, Samorra Dower, and Noah Trembly

Reading of Mission

Carolyn Lewis read the mission statement.

Approval of August 19, 2020, Minutes

The to approve was made by jw Smith. Second Arian and Berry Dilly. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Out of the \$1,000 allocated, we anticipate using between \$120 and \$150 for Athena Award frames and certificate printing, depending on the number of Award submissions. We currently have five. We will return approximately \$850 to the City's budget. ASL: Allocated \$1,960 by the City. Expended \$800; Balance \$1,160. Anticipate another \$400 by the end of the fiscal year, Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Berry. Second jw. Motion carried.

New Business

Two Presentations

Dr. Jordy Stringer, Southeastern Ohio Independence Living (SOCIL)

Discussed the intent to open a satellite office in Athens County. Shared mission, plans, and goals. A work group will be developed with the result being a satellite office. Davey was recently elected to serve on the State CIL Board. With the current budget, a satellite office two days a week is a possibility. Funded by State Health and Human Services and the Federal Government. The need is for space and partnerships. He's excited and pleased to be able to help this happen. Might be able to start serving Athens in January 2021. Davey will set up a working group and acknowledged Berry for all of her work with continuing to keep the idea of a CIL before the Commission and also thanked Berry, jw, and Scott for the groundwork they laid with the early Commission. jw thanked Jordy for his leadership and noted their working relationship over the years.

Rebecca Miller with Age-Friendly Athens County

Provided an overview and how the initiative can be applied to Athens County. It is an opportunity to make communities more welcoming to heighten quality of life for everyone. The World Health Organization created the need for such an initiative and the AARP is a key sponsor. There will be a two year assessment and Athens will be filing an application with the AARP. Has built over 40 community partners and will schedule community meetings. Davey said the Commission has committees that can effectively and naturally partner with Age-Friendly Athens.

Old Business

Motion to adopt the proposed By-Laws changes made by Carolyn. Second by Rose. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Executive Team (Davey)

Complimented the committees for their work. He is writing a letter to the editor and will be meeting with Dr. Carey Busch of Ohio University on October 14 to discuss collaborations. Noted Noah is moving to a new apartment and Dianne is taking a much deserved retirement vacation. He wished them both well. A thank you letter was sent to Mayor Patterson, on behalf of the Commission, for our participation in his weekly press conference and the 30th ADA Proclamation.

Accessibility (Davey)

Great meeting. Reported on affordable housing being built that will be completely accessible and affordable. Met with Woda Cooper development group about accessible and affordable housing on Luhrig and 682. Reviewed plans. Universal design will be in all units. Leasing will start the summer of 2023. Detailed notes are in the attachments sent to Commissioners prior to the meeting. The “Walk and Roll” is on hold. Noah, Davey, and Dianne met Mayor Patterson to ascertain accessibility of the City pool. Carolyn and Samorra assessed the pool summer of 2019. Details are in attachments sent prior to the meeting. Next meeting Thursday, October 8, at noon via Zoom.

Communications (Claire)

Promoting the Athena Award and “Calling All Artists.” Monitoring published Letters to the Editor and Columns. Looking at other outlets for distribution such as Blogs. Facebook audience is expanding. She encouraged Commissioners to “like” and share. Next meeting Thursday, October 8, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Education and Outreach (Berry)

Berry updated on the process and the plan for reviewing/selecting the recipient. jw spoke to the Lions Club and said they were extremely enthusiastic with great questions. He offered to join the Club (and plans to do so) if one of them would consider joining one of our committees. He said he had a great time with them at the iHop meeting room. Next meeting Tuesday, October 13, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Advocacy (Sly)

Black Lives Matter Letter to the Editor has been on hold. The committee's assignment is to review best practices of similar advocacy committees and to develop a plan of action. Meetings will resume in October and will be the first Mondays at 5:00 p.m.

Next meeting Monday, October 5, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Announcements

jw mentioned a website through Yale or Harvard that measures implicit bias. Will send to Dianne to distribute to everyone.

Next Commission meeting Wednesday, October 21, at **5:00 p.m.** via Zoom.

Adjournment

jw made the motion to adjourn. Second by Arian. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Lewis
Acting in Secretary Bouvier's absence
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