

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
October 21, 2020
Video Conference
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting was held via Zoom and set up by Scott Thompson.

Call to Order - Meeting was called to order by Chairperson McNelly at 5:00 p.m.

Establish Quorum

Present: Dianne Bouvier, Scott Dennis, Rose Dikis, Berry Dilley, Samorra Dower, Claire Gysegem, Carolyn Lewis, Sly Mata, Davey McNelly, Cheryl Prusinski, Arian Smedley, jw Smith, Noah Trembly; ASL Interpreter Paige Fuentes; Technical support Scott Thompson, the Government Channel; and Lisa Simpson (guest).

All 13 Commission members were present; seven members constitute a quorum. Quorum established.

Reading of Mission - Carolyn Lewis read the mission statement.

Approval of Minutes

The motion was made by Arian Smedley to approve the September 16, 2020 Minutes. Berry Dilley seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Carolyn Lewis reported that the balance is \$880, with a balance of \$1,120 balance in the City's fund for ASL services, with outstanding invoices for Sept and Oct. Carolyn made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Rose Dikis seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

Commission Membership

Davey announced that the Nominating Committee (Executive Committee) met last month. Current Exec members are willing to continue another year. Other members are invited to be considered for election next month or to come to Exec meetings to see what is entailed in roles for future years. Commission will accept nominations and voting would occur during November meeting. Carolyn verified that executive team officers are limited to two years, at which point they would step down.

jw Smith moved that we elect by acclamation and that nominations be closed, that those serving in the current positions continue to serve (Davey McNelly as Chair, Noah Trembly as Vice Chair, Carolyn Lewis as Treasurer and Dianne Bouvier as Secretary). Arian seconded. Motion carried.

Davey announced that two people's terms are coming to a close, Berry Dilley and Scott Dennis. Both have served many years and had a significant role in the formation and achievements of the City Commission. Berry was instrumental in advocating for a local Center for Independent Living (CIL) and for the formation of the Commission 15 years ago. Berry has agreed to stay on the Education and Outreach Committee. Scott provided his expertise by serving as a

representative from HAVAR and has been a strong advocate for the Commission and people with disabilities during his long career.

The City Commission members are grateful for their service and look forward to a time when we can celebrate them in person. A round of applause and much appreciation to Berry and Scott!

Davey announced that two potential future members are Billy Peacock and Lisa Simpson. Both are interested in serving on the Advocacy Committee. Lisa is in attendance. She is employed at HAVAR and is a leader in inclusion efforts in our community.

Nominating committee requests that nominations submit an application form and resume, and checks references prior to bringing to the mayor.

Old Business

SOCIL Steering Committee

Davey is pulling together a steering committee for the Southeast Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL) and is planning to coordinate a November meeting. Their initial role is to help open an office in Athens County. Steering Committee needs a representative sampling of non-profits and disability service organizations. Let Davey know if you have names.

Committee Reports

Executive Team

- Coordinated Nomination process for Commission membership.
- Noah is working on Local Food delivery options with many partners, especially for elderly and seniors, linking local produce to those who are unable to go to the farmer's market. They are deciding on operating model. Some partnering orgs include Rural Action, the Farmer's Market, ACEnet. Noah is working to become a SNA member. Group will be sending out survey to understand interest in our community.
- Those interested in attending future Exec Team meetings should contact Davey.

Accessibility

- Committee is completing the uptown Walk and Roll project. Rob Delach added photos, Dianne drafted summary report. Detailed report of specifics on curbcuts, crosswalks, etc being finalized before sending to the City.
- The Bailey's Trail organizers are interested in reviewing trail for accessibility. Dianne walked some routes, as well as Davey. There is a half mile stretch that is pretty accessible, which will need signage and some regular maintenance. Most issues are with rain damage, cross slopes and narrowed sections of pathway.
- Next meeting November 12th at Noon via Zoom.

Communications

- Claire reported that at the Oct 8 meeting, they discussed the monthly columns and letters. There was some frustration on delays in having pieces published. Nothing has been published since September. She will meet with Caitlin Thorn (Athens Messenger) to establish monthly column and understand reasons for articles not being published.
- Claire is in the process of promoting the Athens Award ceremony. She is developing "branding" and will promote event on Facebook.

- Arian asked about creating a separate site for us to post our own material, so we can better control what we share with community.
- Reminder to Like the Facebook page and to share and comment!
- Next meeting November 3rd at 5:30 pm

Education & Outreach

- Carolyn made a motion for the Commission to go into Executive Session so Commission could privately discuss the Athena Award nominations. Davey explained that the award winners are not publicized in advance of the event. Scott seconded. Motion passed.
- Scott Thompson stopped recording the Commission meeting for Executive Session.
- About 10 minutes later, Carolyn made a motion to go out of Executive Session. Dianne seconded.
- Carolyn Lewis made a motion that we accept the Education and Outreach Committee's report and recommendations. jw Smith seconds. Motion passes. The Commission reaffirmed the importance of making this award every year to a community member or organization who has impacted the disability community.
- The Event will be Live – Patty Morris-Witmer will send out an announcement for people to view on the Government channel. The public can also watch on City's Facebook page.
- Something will be published to announce all of the nominees and about next year's physical Athena Award (what is given to the selected awardee).
- Cheryl Prusinski as if we have a twitter account. Claire said we could look into it for next year.
- Next meeting November 10th at 5 pm

Advocacy

- Sly said there were some technical difficulties on getting information out, so they were unable to meet. He will work with Patty and Scott to coordinate the next meeting.

Announcements

- Davey reminded everyone that we voted not to have a meeting in December and will reconvene in January 2021.
- The Athena Award Celebration is Nov 4 from 5:00 - 6:00 pm. ASL interpreting will be provided during the event. There are other radio broadcasts happening as well.
- Carolyn reminded committee chairs to get info to Patty a week in advance so she could publicize them.

Adjourn- Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Cheryl seconded. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Bouvier

Secretary, Athens City Commission on Disabilities
October 21, 2020