

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
November 18, 2020
Minutes

Meeting was held via Zoom and set up by Scott Thompson and Ryan Schwartzhoff with The Government Channel.

Call to Order - Meeting was called to order by Chairperson McNelly at 5:04 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, and Noah Trembly; ASL Interpreter Paige Fuentes; Technical support Scott Thompson, the Government Channel; Paul Logue (City Planner) and Lisa Simpson (guest).

- Eleven 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 Rose Dikis to approve the October 21, 2020 Minutes. Berry seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Carolyn Lewis reported that the City Commission expended \$237.84 for the Athena Award leaving a balance of \$762.16, which will be returned to the City and a balance of \$839.20 remains in the City's fund for ASL services. Rose made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Berry seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

Executive Team

- Membership Vote for Executive Team – last meeting the Commission elected a return of the same leadership as this year. No one else expressed an interest in being considered with Davey McNelly as Chair, Noah Trembly as Vice Chair, Dianne Bouvier as Secretary, and Carolyn Lewis as Treasurer.
- Updates on Accessibility Work
 - o Paul Logue (City Planner) and Noah Trembly update
Noah – met with Paul a year ago about the accessibility of Arts/West. Met and discussed the door opener at the Community Center. Noah was pleased that changes were made. They had hour-long field meetings walking uptown. Paul – recognized how to see things in a different way and to understand experience of other people. He and the City want a community that works well for everyone. Thanked Noah for working with him. Wants future projects and processes addressed proactively. Would like to work with the Accessibility Committee on setting priorities for addressing issues.

Discussion on responding to accessibility complaints and issues. New City App being created. Paul gave update that the permanent ramp at Arts West is being built.

- Athena Award Review
 - o Carolyn and Claire said that it all went well and as planned. There was great publicity – Messenger front page, WOUB, sent links to various stories and interviews. Many thanks to all who worked so tirelessly on putting it together – Dr. Carolyn Lewis, Claire Gysegem, Scott Thompson, and the committee and City. GREAT JOB! They played two clips of Patty’s acceptance speech and virtual rendition of the Athens County Community Singers performing *God Bless America*.
- Thank you to Berry Dilley and Scott Dennis for their service
 Davey expressed appreciation on behalf of the Commission for Berry Dilley and Scott Dennis, during this last meeting of the year. Both are stepping down from the Commission after many, many years of service. They both plan to stay involved with committees – Scott with Advocacy and Berry with Education and Outreach. Scott said this Commission has more potential that he has seen in all of its years. They were both instrumental in keeping the Commission going for many years.

Old Business

- SOCIL Steering Committee
 - o They had a steering committee meeting with 9 people at first meeting (Davey, Berry and jw attended), including representation of many orgs. in the community.
 - o Southeast Ohio for Center for Independent Living (SOCIL) – to be a clearing house with info. and referral for supports and services. Berry is delighted it is underway and has wanted to see it come to fruition for a long time. The group wants to figure out what services are needed down here in Southeastern Ohio. Cheryl worked at the Toledo Ability Center, a similar program, giving input on Deaf services needed.

Committee Reports

Executive Team

- Davey met with Dr. Carey Busch from Ohio University last week. With many moving pieces at OU; they can be more involved when things settle down. They are grateful for work we do.
- Noah working on Local Food delivery options with many partners. No update right now.
- Davey asked Committees to set intentions/goals for next year during their December and January meetings, to be shared with Commission.
- The Exec. Team is meeting with City Council during their December 14 meeting to present the Commission’s Annual Report.

Accessibility

- Walk and Roll Audit
 - o Dianne reported that the Committee completed its summer Walk and Roll Audit report of the Uptown area and sent it to City officials. Two reports provided, one with details of issues identified and a second with general recommendations that can be considered for future projects.
- Next meeting – December 10th at Noon via Zoom.

Communications

- Claire reported that the Committee completed the work with the Athena Award this month; no meetings in November or December. Committee will move forward in January on goals for the year. Kudos for all of the Communication around the Athena Award!

Education and Outreach

- Carolyn is appreciative that Berry is continuing next year.
- Calling All Artists for a new Athena Award design. Notices have been sent to the Athens Messenger, local art teachers, and university art faculty. They will set up a committee of local art people to judge the new design.
- They are continuing with the Oral History project and reviewing the criteria for the Athena Award.
- There is no meeting in December.
- Great work – thank you!

Advocacy

- Sly reported that the Committee met last week. They are pleased to have Lisa join their Committee. They are considering taking on interns. They are finalizing goals for the Committee and he will create a proposal to bring forward.

Announcements

- There is no full Commission meeting in December. The Accessibility Committee is meeting; the rest of the Committees are taking a break.
- Davey will send a notice to the Commission about the upcoming presentation the Exec. Team is making to the City Council on December 14.

Adjourn

Noah made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Berry/Rose seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Bouvier

Secretary, Athens City Commission on Disabilities

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