

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
Minutes
September 21, 2022
Athens Community Center and via Zoom for those exempt

Chairperson Davey McNelly called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Secretary Ally Hughes established the quorum.

Present: Vice Chair Dianne Bouvier, Joe Brumfield, Ally Hughes, Micah McCarey, Davey McNelly, Treasurer Carolyn Lewis, Cheryl Prusinski, Lisa Simpson and Rose Dikis, jw Smith

Guests: Mostahidul Alam, Annah Korpi, ASL interpreter

Carolyn read the Commission's Purpose and Mission Statement.

The motion to approve the August 17, 2022, minutes was made by jw. Seconded by Joe. The motion carried.

Carolyn presented the Treasurer's Report. There have been no new expenditures since July. The balance remains \$1,109.81.

The motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Tiffany and seconded by Dianne.
NEW BUSINESS

- DEI/Accessibility Coordinator information
 - o There is potential that the coordinator will facilitate communication between City and Commission:
 - Expectations that coordinator will come to Commission meeting, then work with City Departments to address concerns
 - Plan to have her as the point person for information gathering
 - Dianne will still serve as Mayor's designee
 - Disappointment with how the role has not been in line with Commission's recommendations
 - Commission will provide support
- Exec Team Nominations
 - o Everyone on the exec time is staying in their current positions
 - o In the process of recruiting new members to the Commission
 - o 3 open spots

OLD BUSINESS:

- Commission/Committee Meetings will be in person starting July 1 unless someone asks for accommodations to meet virtually

COMMITTEE REPORTS

-- Executive Team

- Recruitment of two new Commission members in progress
- Stroud's Run Accessibility to beach update
 - Landscape architecture invoice – 120k
 - ODNR is looking forward to other paths that might be done better or cheaper
 - Historic Commission Exec team meeting – crosswalk changes

-The mayor asked the City Commission to meet with the Historical Society about a 1990 ordinance that requires bricks on designated streets in the uptown area. The goal is to amend the ordinance to allow stamped concrete with brick pattern in crosswalks to improve accessibility. Davey sent an invitation to them to meet with us and we are waiting to hear from them.

-- Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Report

- Follow up on Pilot Project for Accessibility Consults

-Met with EPW City Engineers Saleh Eldabaja and Jessica Adine. They reviewed accessibility for the upcoming West Union St. project and the committee gave recommendations to improve access including narrowing driveway entrances, adding more street crosswalks, placing curb ramps to minimize crosswalk distance. Committee is advocating for a pedestrian-focused strategy; DOT usually focuses on movement of vehicles.

- Next meeting: October 14 at noon – City Building

The motion was made by jw to go into Executive session to discuss the Committee's report. Second by Carolyn. -- Outreach and Communications Committee- Athena Award Nominations and Event Planning Update

- Carolyn described the voting process for the Athena Award recipient. The Committee reviewed the five applications and letters of support, discussed each of the nominees, and voted individually by matrix. The recipient is the one receiving the highest score. After the Commission's vote, the name will be forwarded to the Mayor for affirmation.

-The ceremony will be Wednesday, November 2, from 5-6 p.m. at ARTS/West. Mitzi Lou's will cater.

- 5 nominees

First and second voting for Athena nomination - unanimous

jw made the motion to accept the Committee's report. Carolyn seconded. The motion carried.

Motion to approve Annah Korpi, as member of Accessibility and Advocacy, and Robin Brigante, as a former City Commission member, first by jw and second by Carolyn. Davey will forward names to the mayor for confirmation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-Micah's announcement:

As City Council member, Micah has been working to update language in the City ordinances and Codes to be more inclusive. He said he could propose having the City commit to formatting the City website and public documents for accessibility. ***Dianne made a Motion for Micah to work with the City Council on making the City website and public documents accessible; seconded by Joe.***

Next steps: send letter addressing accessibility and documents online to City Council and address to both City Council to say we support this.

Lisa: people first mini golf course – October 16th – free food, supports individuals with developmental disabilities -12-3

Motion to close the meeting by Lisa, second by Cheryl.

ADJOURN at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Ally Hughes, Secretary

September 29, 2022