

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
November 17, 2022
Athens Community Center Room A (or via Zoom with ADA request)
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Chairperson Davey McNelly called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Dianne established the quorum.

Present: Vice Chair Dianne Bouvier, Chairperson Davey McNelly, Treasurer Carolyn Lewis, Cheryl Prusinski, Joe Brumfield, Lisa Simpson; Alli Kisker provided ASL interpreting. Quorum was established.

Joe read the Commission's Purpose and Mission Statement.

Approval of October Minutes

One amendment requested to add “Lacey Rogers” to those being present. The motion to approve the amended October 2022 minutes was made by Joe, seconded by Cheryl. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Carolyn reported that expenses from the Athena Award are begin finalized. Carolyn let Patty know that we may go over budgeted amount by \$50; Patty said the City would take care of it. Lisa made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, Dianne seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

Pedestrian Accessibility Committee Update. Dianne presented an update on the Ad Hoc Pedestrian Accessibility Committee. She shared the powerpoint given to City Council November 14, 2022, which gave a Summary of the results from the survey and focus groups this past summer. Members appreciated hearing about the results and the effort to collect community input. Dianne will share ppt, Wendy McVicker’s poem titled “Sidewalks,” and Disability Focus Group Summary with Commission. Members may send additional comments for the Ad Hoc Committee to Dianne.

Vote to accept Dianne as Commission Member – moved to end of meeting.

Old Business

Athena Award Look Back and Look Forward

- Carolyn led a discussion to reflect on the Athena Award Ceremony.
- Comments – everything went smoothly, lots of volunteers, so many people there! Over a 100!

- Cheryl did a fantastic job presenting the nominees. Suggestion to move eating to be throughout the event, to have eating and presenting go together to save time.
- Overall, beautifully done event, only concern was about how long program was. jw mentioned to interpreters to have Cheryl shorten presentations on nominees. In the past, they only said what the nominators wrote, this time they included words from people's letters of support. No one realized how long would be in interpretation. Next year, revert to just what nominators wrote. One mix-up with the certificates. Dianne left them at the podium, but Cheryl didn't know they were there to pass out. They were given to nominees at the end. Carolyn said the key to that event is to plan and that everybody was on point in getting the work done. Joe, Kayla, everybody. Complete teamwork. Davey said the event has such a High bar with the Community Singers and Calliope performing and people who were nominated brought friends. The Commission missed Carolyn! There was an awkwardness at the beginning with questions about catering, the photographer, certificates, but it all worked out.
- Kudos to Carolyn and all who participated in the event! Carolyn will work with Dianne to write thank you notes to the Newspaper, Ally's students, and others.

Committee Reports

Executive Team

- Davey and the Historic Preservation Commission have prepared a letter about using stamped concrete letter in the Uptown crosswalks. The mayor indicated he would be replacing crosswalks with concrete, starting with the intersection at Court and Union.
- The Exec Team will present to **City Council December 12th at 7:00 pm** [please note, it is not at 5:30]. All are welcome to come and show support – it lets the City Council see how important we believe our work is in the community.

Accessibility and Advocacy

- Accessibility Consultation Work and Letter to the Editor – Annah is drafting a letter to the editor for review at the January meeting, highlighting the accomplishments of businesses that have improved accessibility. The next step is to do a campaign/pamphlet so businesses make a change, and include the accomplishments of local businesses.
- Field Trip to Marietta – Davey, Rob Delach, and Dianne toured Marietta with City Assistant Engineer Bob Heady, who is the former City engineer for Athens. Marietta has a strong emphasis on improving accessibility, with a prioritization matrix, strong funding. We hope Athens can do the same.
- Accessibility Matrix for Important City Projects – Ally designed a matrix for us so we can track projects we've let the City know about. When the matrix is ready,

we need to send to Lacey and the mayor so they can see what we want it to look like.

- Next meeting: January 13 at noon – City Building

Outreach and Communication

- A big THANK YOU Cheryl for co-chairing the Outreach and Communication Committee. Cheryl's term on the Commission ends in December; she will be doing more work focused on Deaf community. Carolyn hopes she'll continue to work with the Outreach and Communication Committee.
- Excellent Committee work on the Athena Award!
- Next meeting Jan. 10th, 5:30 pm

Announcements

- Cheryl Prusinski and Tiffany Beals are stepping down from the Commission at the end of the year. Thank you to Cheryl Prusinski and Tiffany Beals for serving on the Commission. We all appreciate the work you've done and will keep doing!

Membership

Meeting went into a Closed Session, Dianne left the room, so they could discuss and vote on her membership. Joe made a motion to have Dianne be a member, Lisa seconded. Vote to have Dianne be a member passed. Davey will inform the Mayor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Bouvier, vice chair, Athens City Commission on Disabilities
November 17, 2022