

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting

January 12, 2024, 12:00 – 1:00 pm
City Building, Berry Conference Room

Committee members were reminded to request accommodations due to a disability, including zoom access, by contacting Ally or Lisa in advance.

Minutes

Welcome

Ally called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

Present: Ally Hughes (co-chair), Davey McNelly, Lisa Simpson (co-chair), Dan Schoonover (co-chair), Margaret Hutzal, Rob Delach, Annah Korpi

Quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

Davey made a motion to approve the November Minutes, Ally seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Old Business

ACCD Tracking Sheet

- Tracking Spreadsheet was tabled until Dianne returns.
- Dairy Lane/Richland crosswalk will be added to the spreadsheet.
- Committee will review matrix and present quarterly to the city

New City Planner

- Davey is sending an email inviting Saleh to the February meeting for an update on City projects. Will ask Saleh about Union Street project.
- A new City Planner was hired. Rob will email Davey the contact information. We will invite them to a future meeting.
- Members discussed the status of the City ADA Transition Plan. The City has unfilled positions. Further focus on the Plan will most likely happen once the new City Planner is in place.

Consultations

- Davey explained he and Dianne completed the JFS accessibility assessment to the best of their abilities as there are so many needs. They suggested they start with the 3 top things such as putting the bus stop at an accessible entrance with an accessible walkway instead of the gravel parking lot.
- The Committee conducted a work session to review and finalize the spreadsheet. When completed, Dianne will forward to Jessica Adine in EPW and invite her to a meeting in early 2024 to review the items.

New Business

- City Plans
 - Davey explained the city plans on completing a full access path on Columbus Road for 1 mile to city border next year (from bike path next to Acenet).

- Matching Grant Program
 - Working on Awareness Education. Anna will check with Andy about amount money allocated for grant this year.
 - Goal to increase funds
- Walk, Talk and Roll
 - Committee is recommending 4/19 noon- 2pm. Davey sent an email to Micah asking him to see if Howard Park is available.
 - Anna will connect with Autumn regarding the Inclusion pledge and accessibility issues Integrate Athens is working on.
 - There was a suggestion that the committee meet the week before the event to determine roles and last-minute details.
- Pedestrian Accessibility and Bicycle Task Force
 - Rob suggested a joint project between task force and Accessibility and Advocacy Committee
 - Rob will invite HAPCAP's Ben Ziff to a meeting in the Spring time.

Next Meeting: February 9, 2024 at the City Building, Berry Conference Room, first floor.

Meeting Adjourned

Davey moved to adjourn the meeting and Ally seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Simpson, co-chair
Accessibility and Advocacy Committee
1/31/2024
