

Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting

Friday, May 10, 2024, 12:00 – 1:00

Athens City Building, First Floor Conference Room

MINUTES

Attending: Ally Hughs, Davey McNelly, Annah Korpi, Lisa Simpson, Stephanie Hunter, Margaret Hutzell

Quorum was met.

Ally opened the meeting at 12:02pm.

Annah moved to approve the April 12, 2024, committee meeting minutes. Stephanie seconded. Motion carried.

Walk, Talk and Roll Debrief

The committee discussed the need to time the route better to fit within the allowed time allotment, considering the increasing number of participants. There was a large presence of people with various mobility devices represented. Good visibility. Good student turnout.

Chalking was Great PR. Lots of interest and comments – appreciation given by community walking by including students. Perhaps we will have more chalking next year and invite Passion Works to participate. Met the OU Attorney for Legal Compliance and the President.

Suggestion to set up “Stations” along the walk instead of meeting at the Park at the end of the walk. Perhaps they have posters at each station. Suggestion to invite students from Construction Trade Program of Tri-Co. Vocational School. They could talk about legal measurements, etc.

Committee discussed who didn’t come but needs to come: More representation from the city. We need to invite the City Architect and invite them to talk about their areas of expertise. Perhaps set up at one of the stations to discuss the great things they are accomplishing for the city.

Noted attendance: Three City Council members attended this year. ADA Assistant Director came.

It was agreed that we need a better way to define/track committee and volunteers' roles.

We discussed devoting time on each month's agenda toward planning for the following year's WTR.

Announcements

Ben Ziff said he would be happy to come to the next meeting to discuss planning for more accessible bus stops. Stephanie suggested he use the "space model" for a bus stop audit detailed form.

Ally followed up with Saleh about accessible open walkways during construction. New committee members were informed that Saleh comes every couple of months to let the committee know what projects are in the near future. It was noted that he prefers to communicate verbally than by email.

Ally will follow up with Saleh about using temporary ramps to help with access.

It was suggested that the committee meet with the new City Planner, Meghan Jenkins.

Union Street Project: sections of the pedestrian detour is on grass and mud or walking within traffic cones. A suggestion was made to utilize the City Source App to include pictures of the Union Street issue.

The matrix has been updated since we talked with Saleh. It still needs editing but is nearly ready to go live. Question was asked of who should be editing? Davey and Dianne. There is also a comments section.

Davey shared about the Photo Project and a broken lift challenge encountered. They are installing more accessible office space and include a ramp. There was an architect at the meeting.

Annah shared a frustrating school accessibility issue regarding the stage.

Anna also explained that Area 1 of the Alexander School playground funding for accessibility has been secured. Habitat for Humanity and Alexander School are looking for volunteers to build it including people with skills. They will need 200 volunteers over a 2-week period.

Davey explained they need \$50,000 for the Strouds Run Beach Accessibility Project. ODNR Foundation is managing the fundraising and is considering a grant.

There is an adaptive corn hole pilot planned outside at the community center. A flyer is coming soon.

Annah moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded.

