

Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting

Friday, June 14, 2024, 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Athens City Building, First Floor Conference Room

MINUTES

Attending: Lisa Simpson, Stephanie Hunter, Rob Delach, Dianne Bovier

Quorum was not met. No formal business transpired. Meeting began at 12:14 pm.

Approval of May minutes tabled until the next meeting.

General Discussion

Stephanie had invited Ben Ziff to this meeting; however, he was double scheduled, also leading a Transit Advisory Council Meeting which was continuing.

Rob attended the first part of the above meeting and explained that it is a county level meeting where they are also discussing pedestrian safety and accessibility. He further explained that Ben has decided to use the SPACE (Safety, Proximity, Accessibility, Connection and Ease) model for the bus stop project that Stephanie and Rob had suggested.

Mary Reed of the Arbor Day Committee is meeting with the Shade Tree Commission to discuss the need for more benches and shade trees at the bus stops. No grass to keep it accessible. Dianne questioned if there need to be tech measurements to meet ADA.

Stephanie will invite Ben to the July meeting.

West Union, 682 Corridor & Kershaw Green Project

We discussed updates on the 682 Corridor Project & Kershaw Green Project. Rob explained that it is also being discussed at the City Council. Solveig has encouraged folks to share their thoughts. Walkers are increasing. There was an article from Athens News about the walk audit from last year.

The train tracks being equally inaccessible to all is the response. There isn't another good accessible or time-sensitive option to get into town.

The city has no jurisdiction over the train tracks. However, they are considering moving the gate over to make it longer at the crossing to help the pedestrian.

Stephanie mentioned that West Union Sidewalks have been poured but driveway aprons haven't been started. Stephanie is willing to draft a letter to the city planner explaining how these can be made accessible. Dianne will proofread.

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Rob said City is planning a roundabout for 682 to replace traffic lights but it will be 1 to 2 years before it's started. The lights are filtered so it is unsafe to cross. There was a suggestion to perhaps paint a temporary crosswalk to help warn traffic of pedestrian crossing. There was also a suggestion to post the signs that show the speed you are traveling and to slow down.

NOTE: Pedestrians are encumbered by a guardrail that doesn't allow them to get off the road.

The city is working on Phase 2 for 2026 or 2027.

There was a suggestion that a shared use path or roundabout at Armitage Road might also help.

Solveig wants to meet with a small group to discuss if there is anything the city can do short-term.

Announcements

The city applied for a grant for crosswalks. Received initial approval so they've started the paperwork process.

Funds are needed to do a traffic calming project – perhaps at Kershaw Green.

Dianne mentioned a near pedestrian accident at the Madison and East State St. Crossing. She will be writing a letter to Michael Wood, City Councilman.

Rob mentioned that Andy Stone highlighted suggestions and recommendations from the Pedestrian Safety Committee on getting funds for sidewalks on the West Side.

Rob is working on the spreadsheet for the Pedestrian Accessibility Report and will bring it to share with the committee when completed.

It's The 10th Anniversary of the Athena Award this year and the 20th Anniversary of the Commission on Disabilities. A celebration event for both will be held on Wednesday, November 6 of this year.

Meeting Ended.

