

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting
August 9, 2024, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Berry Conference Room

Minutes

Call to Order

Lisa called the meeting to order at 12:02, meeting started 12:15 (difficulty in connecting through Teams)

Present: Lisa Simpson (co-chair), Rob Delach, Stephanie Hunter, Dianne Bouvier, Annah Korpi, Margaret Hutzal, Sarah Doherty (via Teams)

Guests: Ben Ziff, Meredith Erlewine, Tim Traxler, David Callahan (architect)

Quorum Established – 7 members of 10 present

Introductions given all around.

Approval of Minutes – tabled until next month

Bricks: Guest Tim Traxler spoke about the importance of selecting bricks that preserve Athens aesthetic. Copy of his words attached as pdf. Discussion about historic preservation and inaccessibility of current bricks. Part of situation relates to need for continual maintenance, cost of bricks v. stamped concrete. He would like City to consider buying bricks instead of concrete, putting them in so they are accessible. Tim passed out materials showing Lancaster and Columbus that have done a reasonable job installing bricks (although some were not accessible due to obstacles along pathways).

City Commission on Disabilities met with City Commission on Historic Preservation and stamped concrete in walkways was endorsed for use by the City.

Currently intersection at Court and Union going out for a third bid. Suggestion to bring in OU administrator for Design and Construction to see if OU could partner with City for this project. Annah said she would do research on current University-City communication and processes and will connect with Andy about the bidding process. Could the City do something different in a new bid to install better bricks instead of concrete. For this to happen, it would be important that the City also make a commitment to continual maintenance.

Walk, Talk, and Roll 2025 Planning discussion tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion: The Commission needs to close the loop and send a letter to Andy and City Council to thank them for including us in the process for reviewing the University Estates housing project, even though the decision was made to go forward without the Commission writing a letter. We wouldn't want them to not include us in future projects.

Meeting adjourned at 1:04 pm.

Next Meeting: September 13, 2024 at the City Building, Berry Conference Room, first floor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dianne Bouvier, Committee member
August 13, 2024