

**Athens City Commission on Disabilities
September 20, 2023, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Athens Community Center Room A
(or via Zoom with ADA request)**

Minutes

Call To Order

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

Establish Quorum

Davey McNelly established Quorum.

Present: Annah Abetti Korpi, Davey McNelly (Chairperson), Carolyn Lewis (Treasurer), Michelle Hahn, Dianne Bouvier (Vice Chairperson), Lisa Simpson, Deb Burleigh; Guest: Madalyn Blair (third year journalism student, Post editor)

Commission's Purpose

Davey read the Commission's purpose.

Approval of Minutes

Dianne Bouvier made a motion to approve August 2023 Minutes, Lisa Simpson seconded. Passed unanimously.

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Treasurer's Report

- Carolyn Lewis reported that the Commission started with \$1500 and has \$890.12 remaining; Patty Morris-Witmer let her know there is a \$500 contingency, if we other funds, making \$1390 available to the Commission.
- Remaining expenses include the Athena Award food (\$800) and printing costs (to be determined).
- Davey McNelly moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Dianne Bouvier seconded. Passed unanimously.

New Business

- Athena Award Vote – moved to later in the agenda so we could end in Executive Session.

- Nov 1st 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Community Center
 - Thanks for all your work on getting in great nominations
- City Grant for Accessibility for buildings and businesses
 - Annah Abetti-Korpi will draft a follow up communications plan for before and after stories
 - \$30,000 awarded on grants to enhance accessibility
 - Annah will work with Outreach and Communication Committee on this and present ideas at next Commission meeting. Madalyn Blair expressed interest in working on this.
 - Annah will have a press before the next Commission meeting.
 - Dianne will connect Annah and Madalyn.
- Discussion about the difficulties with Community Center wifi, needed to allow people to receive accommodations
 - Davey will follow up with the City on this.
- Accessibility Matrix
 - Matrix will be reviewed at the next Commission meeting. Accessibility and Advocacy Committee meeting started to review accessibility issues.
 - Recommendation to focus on specific, quantifiable changes and to provide general “street-wide” improvements be added to the City’s prioritization list.
 - Noted that the paving for parking spots and signage at Palmer has been completed. yay! They still need to post signs on Stimson to direct people there.
 - Drebb Burleigh noted that Passion Works has expressed that Kern Street has no sidewalks and many people with disabilities live there. Add to list.
 - Crosswalk at Carpenter near apartment across from Dollar Store - add to list for update from Jessica.

Old Business

- Congrats to Dr. jw Smith. What a concert! Woo hoo!

Committee Reports

Executive Team

- Rep for Pedestrian Accessibility Task Force needed – Michelle Hahn expressed interest. Davey made a motion to recommend that Michelle Hahn serve as the Disability Commission representative to the Task Force. Everyone seconded. Motion passed. Davey will contact Chris Knisely to put Michelle's name forward.
- Historic District
 - o Historic Preservation Commission signed Davey's letter on Monday and was forwarded to our City Council, then will go to the State.

Accessibility and Advocacy

- Letter sent to City Council and City to support funding for 10 year plan for sidewalk accessibility
- Next meeting: October 13th at noon – City Building

Outreach and Communications

Commission moved into Executive Session.

- Committee presented six nominees for the Athena Awards and a recipient was approved. The recommended recipient's name and information will be forwarded to the Mayor.
- Excellent compilation – great nominees – great voting process.
- Carolyn said they usually send a letter to Patty, cc: the Mayor, with all nominees and their info, and name the final recommended recipient; cc: exec team. Carolyn offered to help Michelle, if needed.
- Friday, October 27 – meet at the Community Center to rehearse process.
- Next meeting: October 10th City Building 5:30 pm
- Audio visual people – Silver can help with audio visual; Ryan or Scott can record for the government channel that night and post to youtube.
- Greeters – Debbie has 3 people to be greeters
- Room set up – Michelle has the room set up. One of three entrances closed, two are open, directional navigation. Lisa can ask Dan to help too.

- Stephanie Morris is directing the Athens Community Singers
- Photographer - Trey from Messenger (Carolyn will arrange), Madalyn from Post (Debbie will ask), we need a freelance photographer to take photos of the recipients
- Time to get the word out to invite the community.
- Dianne will send edited version of Carolyn's script from last year to Michelle
- Costs - about \$800 for food; and additional costs for printing certificates and programs.

Announcements

No announcements.

Adjourn

6:32 meeting adjourned. Dianne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:32, Debbie seconded, all adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Bouvier, PhD
Vice Chairperson
September 26, 2023