

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
August 21, 2024
Athens Community Center Room A (or via Zoom with ADA request)

Minutes

Chairperson Davey McNelly called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Quorum Established

Present: Davey McNelly, Carolyn (via Teams), Michelle Hahn, Deb Burleigh, Lisa Simpson, Micah McCarey, Annah Korpi, Dianne Bouvier

Note: Dave will follow up with Mayor to invite Meghan to our meeting as City representative. Micah will continue as representative for City Council.

Commission Purpose read by Lisa Simpson

Minutes Approved

- Davey asked if there were any questions about the July Minutes. (Lisa Simpson made a motion to accept the July minutes, Dianne seconded. Motion passed 8-0-0.
- Note: Dianne suggested that we add time on future agendas for Michelle to regularly provide updates from the Pedestrian Accessibility and Bicycle Task Force. Michelle agreed.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Carolyn Lewis reported that the balance remains the same at \$2,039.94.
- Deb made a motion to accept the report, Michelle Hahn second, Motion passed 8-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Commission Commemoration and Athena Award.** Carolyn Lewis and planning group provided an update:
 - Speaker Jennifer Kucera has accepted Davey's invitation to be the speaker – strong advocate for people with disabilities, “nothing about us without us” – from Berea, OH.
 - Mauvette's is catering buffet, Deb Burleigh and Carolyn Lewis are working with her on menu and pricing.
 - Otis Cochran agreed to be the pianist and will start at 4:30 as people arrive.
 - Nominations – Carolyn is checking to see if there are any.
 - o Lisa and Deb will work on connecting with providers
 - Everyone is needed to help set up, arrive 2:30-3 on November 6, Community Center.
 - Colors - Blue, green and silver
 - Soliciting Sponsors for the event
 - o Michelle will send out taking points – to make list of sponsors editable
 - o Three sponsorship levels – blue (\$50) green (\$100) silver (\$250) – listed in the program, marketing info. If more funds are attained than needed for the event, then planning committee recommends purchasing a hooyer lift for the Athens City pool.
 - o Carolyn will check with Patty at the City Building if the donations are tax deductible.
- **Sensory Friendly Swim** – Last open swim on Sunday – sounded successful; Anecdotally people were thankful, Annah asked Katherine Ann for numbers – could do letter to thank City Community Center about the SF swim and adult changing tables. Suggestion to have commission write a letter to the editor – Michelle will ask Melissa if she would write a letter to the editor

- **Alexander Inclusive Playground** – Go Annah and thank you for all your hours of work on this!!! Ribbon cutting event was well attended and fun. Still need to complete Phase Two – some funding allocated from capital budget, \$250,000 additional funds needed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **University Estates Housing project**
 - o Exec Team met with Andy Stone, mayor and Andrew Chiki. The developers did not include one level options, making it unusable for many members of the Commission. It is presumed that the Units met ADA standards, but they didn't meet the wholistic needs of families, circumstances for those living with disabilities. We asked for more interaction with developers and with future projects. Project had many goals (accessible and cluster housing, affordable to those with a good income, sustainable) and only met some.
 - **Note:** Davey asked Andy to grind curb edges at Court and Union and will follow up with him.
 - o Micah reported that the city council were told that it was difficult to find developers – City has need to improve housing and desire to make accessible housing; this project only increases housing; what else to work with developers? More expensive; selected land that is inefficient for accessible housing; TIFs – usually include some accessible units.
 - Changed the beneficiaries for project
 - City Council changed the ordinance and removed the language needing a letter from Disability Commission.
 - How do we prevent this from happening again?
 - Ridges – another future project – Board has come together – this will be a good test to figure out how to make sure units for those with disabilities – Chris Knisely is a member for the Ridges Development Project. Dianne will write to her to learn who is involved and are there people living with disabilities on the Board.
 - 682 round-about – another project that needs a voice around disabilities.
 - Idea – if the City is always having trouble finding contractors to do construction for sidewalks, intersections, etc, can there be some effort for local folks to get trained to meet the needs we have to construct and maintain infrastructure. (Work with Hocking College to develop a program, employ retiring construction folks to teach). Micah will think on this and what might be next steps.

Committee Reports

- Davey postponed Committee Reports until next month due to lack of time.

Announcements

- Next Accessibility and Advocacy Meeting: September 13th at noon – City Building
- Next Outreach and Communications Meeting: September 10th at 5:30 City Building
- Davey announced the Paralympics Event in Athens - Buffalo Wild Wings (BW3) on Sept 6 from Noon – 2:00 pm.

Adjournment

- Annah made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lisa seconded. Motion passed 8-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Bouvier, Vice Chairperson

August 22, 2024